

A close-up photograph of various fresh herbs, including rosemary and sage, tied with white string and resting on a dark, textured wooden surface. The herbs are vibrant green and appear to have some moisture on their leaves. The background is softly blurred, emphasizing the textures of the herbs and wood.

HEALTHY SOIL, HEALTHY FOOD, HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Using Gardening for Climate Change and Food Security at Home City Housing



Healthy Soil, Healthy Food, Healthy Community

- Home City is a mission-driven developer of multi-family and mixed-use properties in the Springfield region.

Tapley Community Garden

Provides 2500 pounds of fresh organic produce to HCDI residents, includes regular distribution of fresh produce throughout the summer and fall to all properties.

Northeast Organic Farmers Association of Massachusetts provides training for Home City Youth Leaders on urban gardening, food security, and environmental justice at Tapley Garden through the summer months. This program is partially funded by the North East Grassroots Fund.



Healthy Soil, Healthy Food, Healthy Community

- The Northeast Organic Farming Association (Mass. Chapter).
- Through education and advocacy NOFA/Mass promotes organic agriculture to expand the production and availability of nutritious food from living soil for the health of individuals, communities and the planet.
- Home City Housing and NOFA/Mass worked together to create an organic farming course for 15 youth leaders from 3 HCH properties. The program was centered around the community at the Tapley Court Apartments



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Food from the garden was distributed to the students, staff and families of all three apartment sites

“Felt like a hero being able to feed people, where they live.”

2500 pounds of food from the garden was given to families from Liberty and Tapley Court Apartments



Healthy Soil, Healthy Food, Healthy Community

Connecting in Human Health with Soil Health

Youth leaders participated in classes last summer that covered carbon proxy testing, how carbon is held in the soil and helps plants grow and no-till farming techniques

This summer, students looked at mineral deficiencies in plants/soils and how humans suffer the same problems – low calcium in plants can produce blossom end rot, low calcium in humans can produce dental issues, osteoporosis.



Healthy Soil, Healthy Food, Healthy Community

Small Cooking Demonstrations (Friends of the Homeless Diabetes Initiative and HCH) featuring food from the garden (salsa, bruschetta, salads, soups), that highlight how the vegetable combinations can assist with keeping blood sugar levels low and regulate high blood pressure.



Healthy Soil, Healthy Food, Healthy Community

For more information on The Youth Leader Program at Home City Housing or the Work with Friends of The Homeless – contact:

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