



Bowman Store Supports Fresh Food Access with Urban Garden Partnership in Little Rock



Charlotte Hall | Bowman Store Little Rock, AR

Charlotte has been a Whole Foods Market Team Member for more than a decade and currently holds the role of Local Champion & Kids Club Coordinator. However, her **dedication** to community partnerships and service extends beyond her job. “Expanding fresh, healthy food access in underserved communities is important to me and my fellow Team Members because healthy food helps **build a whole and thriving community**,” she says. With the community’s wellbeing in mind, she has been a supporter of Dunbar Gardens for several years. She hosts the group at the store during Kids’ Club Fridays and is eager to **deepen the relationship** and create more awareness of the urban garden through Team Member volunteer opportunities and joint events outside of the store.

Dunbar Gardens dunbargarden.org

Since 1992, Dunbar Gardens has led the effort to **increase access** to quality local foods and support the development of **urban teaching gardens** within the Little Rock community. With the goal of **improving the health of the community** at the forefront, the organization offers a weekly “pay what you can” seasonal vegetable stand, community workshops, cooking classes centered on **preparing healthy foods on a budget**, and volunteer opportunities. The teaching garden hosts nearly 700 students each month, and the **local restaurants purchase** the garden’s produce and flowers. Currently, the organization cultivates much of the three-acre farm by hand. The Community First Grant, secured by the Bowman store, will help the farm purchase a subcompact tractor for its three-acre farm to improve efficiency.



Whole Foods Market Team Members can nominate a local nonprofit increasing access to fresh, healthy food or nutrition education for a \$5,000 grant.

WholeCitiesFoundation.org