



Wilmington Store Partnership Grows Urban Farm Network



Chelsea Thornhill | Wilmington Store Wilmington, NC

As a GroBody Team Member at the Wilmington Store, Chelsea understands that, “Working at Whole Foods Market, Team Members have easy access to healthy foods. **We want to help** everyone have healthy food access like we do so they have the opportunities that everyone deserves.” She and her fellow Team Members believe that the more they help **build up and strengthen** their community, the happier, healthier and more supported their community members will feel. Chelsea is excited to kick off the relationship between the store and Community Enrichment Initiatives’ Wilmington Green Community Gardens because she is an avid vegetable gardener and knows firsthand **the benefits** of working with the earth and growing your own food. She’s eager for others to experience this, too.

Community Enrichment Initiatives ceiiwilm.com

Community Enrichment Initiatives (CEI) promotes health and wellness, personal empowerment, education and self-sufficiency. CEI creates and expands enrichment programs, projects and opportunities. In 2018, CEI merged with Wilmington Green, a nonprofit that offers placemaking opportunities and fresh produce through **10 community gardens**. CEI is looking to advance their food access program by developing Willowdale Farm, a **two-acre urban farm**, which will significantly **increase the amount of food** CEI grows. In tandem, CEI is adding a certified community kitchen at the nearby MLK Center to process food from their gardens and Willowdale Farm, establish food education-related programs and serve as an economic incubator for startups.



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