



Galleria Store Evolves Partnership with Community Garden to Strengthen Ferguson



Edward Whittington | Galleria Store Florissant, MO

Edward is a Prepared Foods Supervisor and has been a Team Member for eight years. He has volunteered with the Community Gardens of Hope Hill for a couple years and singles out the **primary goal** in evolving the relationship between the garden and the store is to **strengthen the Ferguson community**. “By providing a garden to grow healthy food to **nourish the body** and provide education on healthy eating to **nourish the mind**, we hope the work will **build community for the soul**,” explains Edward. “There is a hunger and nutritional crisis in our city we are trying to impact.” Edward and the store plan on continuing to volunteer, provide funding, educational resources and advocate for community participation.

The Community Gardens of Hope Hill

The Community Gardens of Hope Hill is focused on **strengthening and nourishing Ferguson** with its community garden, which provides fresh, healthy food and serves as a **community gathering spot**. The garden, which features disability-accessible raised beds, just celebrated its **first full growing season**. A mini pantry on the property exists for neighbors to take what they would like of the surplus harvest. The Galleria Store wants to see the garden flourish, so it helped secure a second grant on the garden’s behalf. The funds will be allocated to extend plumbing and improve water access, so the garden is **more accessible** to community members who have physical limitations or disabilities.



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

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