



## Glastonbury Store Encourages Urban Farming with Hartford Partnership



### Erika Mercieri | Glastonbury Store Glastonbury, CT

When Erika joined the Glastonbury Store, she was struck with how interested Team Members were in supporting Whole Foods Market's foundations and ultimately, **being a part of something greater than themselves**. As a Store Support Supervisor, she has a vested interest in educating her team, which includes inspiring them to **bring Whole Foods Market's values to life**. Erika helped forge the partnership with KNOX because it's a natural extension of the Team Members' **shared goal** to build a stronger, healthier Hartford. "I love working in an atmosphere that allows Team Members to **live healthfully** and get educated about organic food, as well as afford it."

### KNOX

[knoxhartford.org](http://knoxhartford.org)

Using **horticulture as a catalyst** for community engagement, KNOX forges partnerships between residents, businesses and government, providing leadership to build stronger, greener, healthier and more beautiful neighborhoods in Hartford. Key programs include training urban incubator farmers, managing and maintaining community gardens, providing underserved young adults with green job skills, teaching environmental education, restoring the urban forest, and greening the city. KNOX's goals are twofold: to **steward Hartford's environment** and to **increase access** to healthy, affordable food in Hartford. The Community First Grant will support the Urban Incubator Farm Program, which provides low-income, **beginning farmers** with the resources to scale up their production and launch their farming businesses. This program **serves thousands** of Hartford residents by increasing access to healthy, affordable produce.



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](http://WholeCitiesFoundation.org)