

University Heights Store Partners with ProvidenceBased Nonprofit to Establish Youth-Led Vegetable Garden

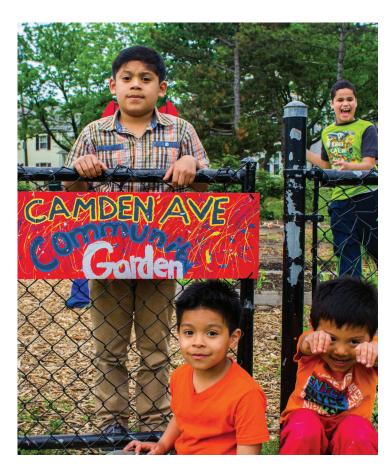


Justin Roias | University Heights Store Providence, RI

A Whole Body Team Member, Justin has been with Whole Foods Market for eight years. "As a community activist, I see the issue of food insecurity as a **social justice issue**. I am well aware that a lack of adequate nutrition may lead to a range of mental and physical health issues such as obesity and depression, among others." Although Smith Hill CDC specializes in providing affordable housing to low-income residents, Justin points out that that its commitment to **providing access** to healthy food shows that they are much more than a community development corporation. He **proudly supports** the nonprofit by being an active board member, taking an active role in the community garden initiatives and securing a Community First Grant on Smith Hill CDC's behalf.

Smith Hill Community Development Corporation smithhillcdc.org

Since 1992, the Smith Hill Community Development Corporation (Smith Hill CDC) has been dedicated to improving the quality of life in Smith Hill and its neighboring communities. With its first Community First Grant, the group was able to revitalize Camden Avenue Community Garden, now an active inter-generational community hub. Reflective of Smith Hill's diverse population, community members are encouraged to grow foods native to their homeland. This has helped foster conversations around food, culture and identity. Now, Smith Hill CDC is renovating a three-floor home for young adults and transitioning aged youth. This 2019 grant will help establish a youth-led vegetable garden and beautify a green space on the property. Smith Hill CDC plans on offering educational cooking demonstrations in the house's kitchen too.



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