



Brooklyn Store Partners with Family-Focused Nonprofit to Grow Healthy Communities



Maryann Young | Brooklyn Store Brooklyn, NY

Maryann, a Prepared Foods Team Member, actively supports Whole Foods Market's core values, such as serving and supporting communities. She believes these values paired with a Community First Grant can **build a better world** in which fresh and healthy foods are accessible to all. "Participating and being present in this movement makes me happy, and most of all, **gives me a sense of purpose**," she says. Maryann sees Isabahlia Ladies of Elegance Foundation, Inc. (LOEF) as an ideal partner in **the mission to improve food access** in the Brownsville neighborhood of Brooklyn. She appreciates how the nonprofit values food education and promotes the **life lessons** learned from planting, cultivating, harvesting, preparing and eating healthy foods. Maryann hopes to help Isabahlia LOEF expand its outreach.

Isabahlia Ladies of Elegance Foundation, Inc. isabahlialoefinc.org

Isabahlia Ladies of Elegance Foundation is **strengthening families** in Brownsville and East New York nutritionally, emotionally and socially by instilling meaningful life lessons and providing support groups and services. The organization currently **grows fresh healthy produce** on five lot properties. Their weekly farmers' markets **improve access to fresh produce** while their weekly **food demonstrations** teach how to creatively and deliciously prepare the produce. Each community garden provides fresh food to individuals in these communities, as well as offers information and **mentorship opportunities** so residents can learn how to grow healthy produce themselves. Whole Cities Foundation is proud to support a community partner that is on a **mission to strengthen, educate and build** healthy, happy and productive youth **one garden at a time**.



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



Brooklyn Store Partners with Community Development Nonprofit to Launch Mobile Learning Lab



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Prepared Foods Team Member Maryann is sincere about why community service is important to her: “It gives me a **sense of purpose**. If I can meet the needs and reflect the desires of my community, be honest, open, understanding and patient while being consistent in my commitment and keep promises, then I can proudly say that I have been present in **building a better world** in which fresh and healthy foods are accessible to all,” she says. She applied for a Community First Grant on behalf of Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation to provide the funds necessary to advance its innovative food delivery project and extend its reach in the Rockaways. Maryann hopes to contribute to the organization’s projects as they **strengthen communities** recovering from Hurricane Sandy.

Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation oceanbaycdc.com

Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation serves children, families and seniors in the Far Rockaway area to revitalize the region by creating a healthier, safer, more prosperous community. Their programs are divided into three distinct services: resident resources, workforce development and community engagement. To meet the needs of the population it serves, the organization is launching a **mobile learning lab** that will take **nutrition, active living and public health workshops and events like farm stands, small markets and healthy food demonstrations** directly to the communities they serve. Whole Cities Foundation is honored to support Ocean Bay Community Development Corporation as it works to **strengthen and expand resources** to set up residents for success.



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Brooklyn Store Helps Bronx River Community Garden Project Grow



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“Community partnerships and service are important components in **building a stronger and healthier community**,” explains Maryann, a Prepared Foods Team Member. “Instilling Whole Foods Market’s core values and Whole Cities Foundation’s Community First Principles make supporting communities in need of healthy food access and education easier.” She believes in the power of **strong community partnerships**, and that’s one reason she was drawn to Youth Ministries for Peace & Justice. She championed a Community First Grant on the nonprofit’s behalf to support the Bronx River Foodway, a series of gardens with free educational and recreational programs that **advance healthy food access**. She secured four Community First Grant for local nonprofits in 2019 and finds creating and advancing community partnerships like this a **rewarding experience**.

Youth Ministries for Peace & Justice ympj.org

Youth Ministries for Peace & Justice (YMPJ) was founded in 1994 with the mission to **rebuild and improve** the critically underserved neighborhoods of the South Bronx. YMPJ prepares residents of these communities to become **voices for peace and justice** through **political education, spiritual formation and community organizing**, as well as direct services and programs focused on health and nutrition, social support, environmental and **food justice**, support for new immigrants, youth leadership development, and more. The Community First Grant funding will support its **Bronx River Foodway project**, a series of **edible gardens** on the Bronx River which provide free, healthy produce for local residents and serves as an educational tool to connect communities and share knowledge around food and health.



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