



Sauganash Store Partners with Social Justice Organization to Support Garden and Cooking Classes



Rachel VanHoose | Sauganash Store Evanston, IL

“Growing up on a farm, fresh produce and healthy eating education is my **lifelong passion**,” Rachel, a Floral Buyer, explains. “I am very proud to serve at the YWCA, an organization that provides such **essential services** and education in our community.” The YWCA’s garden gives its fresh produce to a domestic violence shelter, offers weekly cooking classes and has a free culinary job training and placement program. Rachel is responsible for the garden’s seasonal planning and planting, leads volunteer workdays and organizes harvest delivery to the culinary programs. She believes that **working in partnership** with the YWCA makes store Team Members more aware of their surrounding communities and the challenges facing people with limited access to healthy food and healthy-eating education.

YWCA Evanston/North Shore

ywca-ens.org

Dedicated to eliminating racism and empowering women, YWCA Evanston/North Shore has worked for more than six decades to **foster gender, racial and economic equity**. Currently, they have 11 raised garden beds and seven fruit trees that produce vegetables and fruit throughout their eight-month growing season. They hold a weekly cooking class for residents of their emergency domestic violence shelter. Residents work to **learn how to harvest, clean and prepare** organic vegetables to make affordable healthy meals. The garden also supplies produce and herbs to its new 12-week **job training** program YWCulinary, which trains women for jobs in the food service industry. Whole Cities Foundation is honored to support YWCA with funding to strengthen and increase their garden and cooking classes in Evanston.



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