



## South Street Store Advances Local Partnership to Improve Community Health in Philadelphia



### Tara Pastuszek | South Street Store Philadelphia, PA

Tara is an Associate Store Team Leader and has been with the South Street Store for more than a year. She was quick to discover that **Team Members are passionate** about supporting the city and their community. The store was previously involved with the Urban Tree Connection, and Tara is helping to reinvigorate this commitment. She explains, “**Real food is a necessity** to all human beings. Socioeconomic factors create barriers to that access, and we are passionate about **equality for all** in access to food.” One way the store is aiming to **help improve access** to healthy food locally is by supporting Urban Tree Connection’s education programs which promote health, wellness and leadership development; and are rooted in food, land and environmental justice.

### Urban Tree Connection [urbantreeconnection.org](http://urbantreeconnection.org)

Urban Tree Connection is celebrating 30 years of **growing community together** in West Philadelphia. Since its founding, they have partnered with community leaders and residents to redevelop more than 86,000 square feet of vacant land into spaces for **communal growing** and gathering, sustainable food production and affordable food distribution, and **multi-generational community health** and wellness education. They see urban agriculture as a tool for **building healthy neighborhoods** and **community power**. In 2019, Urban Tree Connection joined local partners to strengthen Farm to Table initiatives in Early Childhood Education (ECE) centers. By distributing Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) shares to local ECE centers and caregivers, Urban Tree Connection significantly grew their low-income CSA program, reached **more families** and expanded their connections. They are now working to advance that pilot project.



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)