



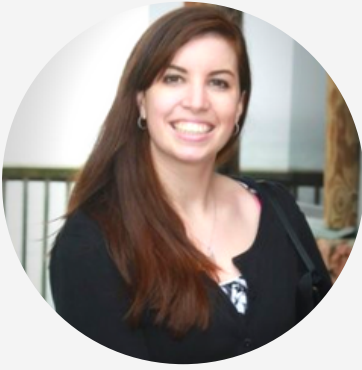
# ANNUAL REPORT

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**CHICAGO  
GROWS FOOD**





# DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT

Dear Supporters,

It is with great enthusiasm that I take the reins as the new Director of Chicago Grows Food, a collaborative organization devoted to expanding and unifying the food growing community in Chicagoland. Our mission is to creatively connect advocates for safe and environmentally-conscious food production, land stewardship, food access, food security and nutrition to catalyze and sustain equitable and holistic health outcomes for the communities of Chicago.

Our organization has experienced tremendous growth over the past year, doubling the number of Grow Kits distributed, adding Home Garden installations, and providing a gardening Help Desk. We have been able to achieve these successes thanks to the dedicated efforts of the member organizations, donors, and volunteers. These contributions have enabled us to make a positive impact in our community and beyond.

We are excited for the future and eager to continue our work in the coming year. We look forward to partnering with our supporters to ensure our ongoing success.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our mission.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Berkeley  
Director

“Because of the one and only Chicago Grows Food grow bag I received, this spring we started our own seedlings and actually transplanted 7 different crops! I'm excited to say we've harvested our 1st zucchini and are looking forward to the rest of the season.”

—2020 Grow Kit recipient



# ABOUT US

In May 2020, Chicago Grows Food, a collaborative of nearly a dozen individuals, school-based organizations, university partners, and non-profit organizations, launched the Grow Your Groceries (GYG) program to address increasing rates of food insecurity in Chicago due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Grow Your Groceries initiative includes Individual Grow Kits and Home Gardens. Participants receive gardening materials and resources to address the physical and education barriers individuals often face to growing food.

**Since 2020, CGF has distributed over 9,000 grow kits.**



“To be able to get that grow kit and see my fresh vegetables coming out, I think I got the green peppers; So, I was very excited about that. So just getting the grow kit for the first time made me want to continue it because I was very excited to see it grow and be able to use some of that in my cooking.”

—2020 Grow Kit Recipient

# Chicago Grows Food Members

 DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

**IRWIN W. STEANS CENTER**

FOR COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICE LEARNING & COMMUNITY SERVICE STUDIES



**CHICAGO  
PARTNERSHIP FOR  
HEALTH  
PROMOTION**

ROBERT JOHNSON

**HEALTHY SCHOOLS  
CAMPAIGN**

MARJORIE KERSTEN



**UI Health**

Office of Community Engagement and  
Neighborhood Health Partnerships



**gardeneers**

growing school gardens



PETER HOY



**openlands**

conserving nature for life



# 2022 HIGHLIGHTS



**3,764**

Grow Kits distributed

**44**

Home Gardens

**35**

Chicago Neighborhoods

## WORKSHOPS

Creating  
Beneficial  
Gardens

Gardening  
101

Preserving

Season  
Extension

Soil 101

Weeds,  
Pests,  
Diseases





# Of GYG Home Garden program participants who responded to surveys:

**100%** reported eating  
healthier

**75%** reported harvesting,  
cooking, and eating food  
from their garden

**100%** used their garden  
with members of their  
household

**100%** agreed they felt  
supported by CGF

**100%** would likely grow  
their own food again





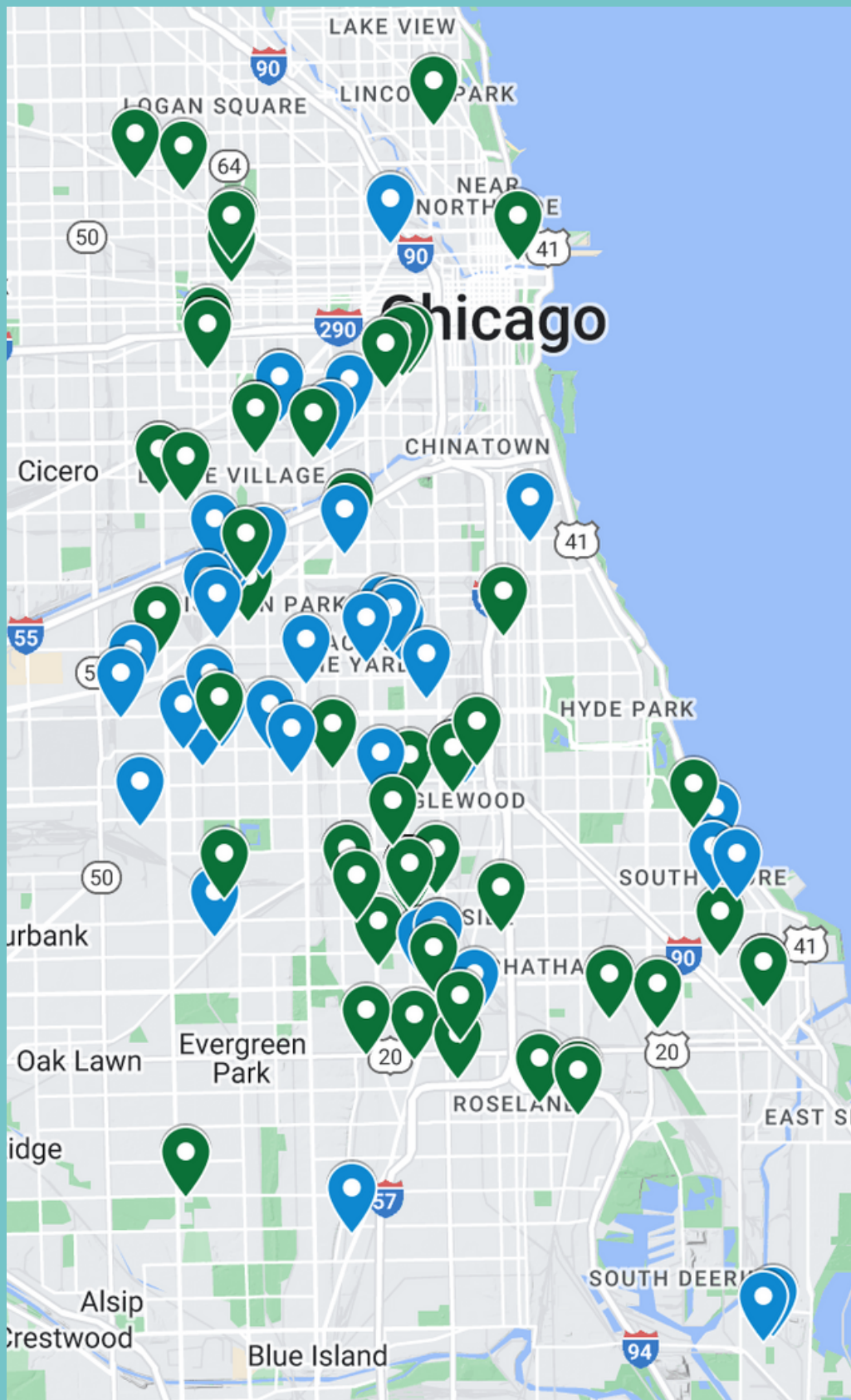
# 2022 Grow Your Groceries Program Reach



**Grow Kits**  
**3,764 kits**  
**60 sites**



**Home Garden**  
**44 homes**



# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

REVENUE	
Release of Temporarily Restricted net assets	\$ 159,623.00
Grants	\$ 100,000.00
Individual contributions	\$ 823.00
Program Service Fees	\$ 2,000.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 262,446.00</b>
EXPENSE	
Staff	\$ 29,105.00
Contracted Services	\$ 37,341.00
Marketing & Technology	\$ 5,309.00
Direct Program Expenses	\$ 64,046.00
Fundraising	\$ 25,000.00
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 160,801.00</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>\$ 101,645.00</b>



“Please do not stop supporting us with your knowledge since this year was very helpful for me and my family”

-2022 Home Garden recipient

PREPARED BY:

ELIZABETH BERKELEY, DIRECTOR