



Internship: Sustainable Farming for Hunger Relief

Spend your summer working with a leading Central Massachusetts non-profit organization as they continue to improve operations and expand their reach of healthy produce to Worcester County's most vulnerable. Gain valuable experience and learn about a sustainable farming and volunteer organization, the basics of non-profit operations, and volunteer organizing while you spend your summer outdoors with a diverse group of staff and volunteers. Work directly with an experienced farm team, responsible for 15 acres of vegetable fields, 1 acre of blueberries and 35 acres of apple trees. Be part of a dynamic team aiding hunger relief in Worcester County.

Responsibilities

Interns participate in all aspects of operating a volunteer farming organization and have direct hands-on engagement in farming over 15 acres in Grafton, MA and 35 acres of orchards in Harvard, MA. The internship includes working with and leading volunteers in farm activity while gaining valuable leadership and communication skills.

You will:

- Lead diverse groups of volunteer farmers in daily activities at both farms.
- Maintain a positive volunteer experience for all who visit Community Harvest Project farms.
- Support farm maintenance tasks like mowing, harvesting, weeding, pruning, crop thinning, pest control, irrigation, etc.
- Support activities and learn from our orchard team once a week at our Harvard, MA location
- Other tasks as needed

Educational Components

- Opportunity to work with and learn from all staff members of the non-profit and will gain insight into the multi-faceted operations of the organization
- Opportunity to learn from Central Massachusetts community leaders
- Off-site visits to partner organizations to learn more about local hunger relief efforts and non-profit partnerships.

Preferred Qualifications, qualified applicants will:

- Be an excellent communicator and be able to demonstrate previous leadership responsibility
- Have interest in farming, public health, nutrition or sustainability
- Be able to lift farm equipment and/or produce weighing up to 50 pounds
- Be comfortable using or learning to use power tools like weed-whackers and lawn mowers
- Enjoy working outdoors in all weather conditions, we operate rain or shine
- Work within a team or independently, be self-motivated, with great attention to detail
- Have reliable transportation
- Be available for 30 hours per week, May 29 through August 16, primarily-morning hours with an occasional late afternoon/early evening or Saturday. Unique scheduling needs may be negotiated in advance and are subject to operational needs of the organization. This internship can extend through the fall season.
- Be flexible and have a sense of humor! This is a true farming operation and we operate at the whim of nature, so flexibility is key.

Organization Information:

Community Harvest Project (CHP), a 501(c)3 organization, is dedicated to creating healthy and engaged communities through volunteer farming and nutrition education for those who are experiencing food insecurity. Through their volunteer farming, education, and leadership programs they bring thousands of community members together each year. In 2022 they hosted over 6,000 volunteer visits that allowed for 1.4 million servings of fruits and vegetables to be grown and donated through partnerships including the Worcester County Food Bank's hunger relief network, Community Servings, and Hector Reyes House. Community Harvest Project provides a significant amount of nutritious, fresh produce for individuals and families experiencing food insecurity in Eastern and Central Massachusetts.

For more information about their locations, programs, and impact, please visit www.community-harvest.org.

Contact

Applications being accepted beginning January 8, 2024. To apply send letter of interest and resume via email to Wayne McAuliffe, Manager of Volunteer Programs, at wayne@community-harvest.org