



September 12, 2012 | --

Just Food



Just Food is a non-profit that connects communities and local farms with the resources and support they need to make fresh, locally grown food accessible to all New Yorkers. They provide market opportunities for farmers in the Hudson Valley and within 250-miles of New York City.

In 1995 Just Food pioneered and began championing the proliferation of sustainable food programs, including

CSAs, community-run farmers' markets, and farm-to-food pantry programs. Just Food serves thousands of New Yorkers by forging partnerships between local farms, neighborhood groups, and consumers, and by providing urban communities with a framework for growing, and knowing, healthy food.

Just Food has helped over 100 CSAs start in NYC. Their urban agriculture program trains and provides support to community garden groups to start and run successful farmers' markets, trains skilled gardeners to teach their communities to grow food, and coordinates free urban agriculture workshops in low-income communities.

Their Fresh Food For All program provides food pantries and other emergency food programs with fresh, locally-grown produce to ensure that healthy food is available to people in need. The program also provides additional markets for farmers and teaches cooking skills and nutrition information to food pantry staff and clients. The program is made possible in part through a grant from the NYS Department of Health's Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program and a partnership with the

United Way of NYC.

They offer an array of educational programming. Their Community Food Education program teaches New Yorkers to cook simple, healthy, and delicious meals with fresh, seasonal produce. Through Just Food's newsletters, workshops, conferences, New York City residents have become more informed advocates for local, regional, and national farm issues. Their newest program, Farm School NYC, is a two-year educational program for adults dedicated to training new experts in the field of urban agriculture.

Every Fall, this group offers a Farm to Table Tasting engaging New York City's top chefs and local farmers and food producers. This fundraiser is supported by some of the best chefs in NYC. Read what they have to say about Just Food and the upcoming Let Us EAt Local event.

"Chef Michael Anthony, Gramercy Tavern: Just Food champions urban agriculture and gives all of its supporters and members the chance to learn about food production, to question land use, and to dream of a more fair food distribution system. Ultimately, Just Food reconnects our restaurant, both staff and guests, to the natural world around us."

Chef Mary Cleaver, The Cleaver Company and The Green Table: "Just Food, a pioneer in the CSA movement, has both allowed and inspired a vast population of New Yorkers to eat well. Their CSA program, among others, puts delicious, wholesome food from our local farms into the hands and mouths of New York City residents who need it most. Just Food helps build a better food and farm economy – one that is regional, sustainable, healthy and accessible."

Check out our Events calendar for more information about this event and a discount code for Green Guru Network readers who would enjoy this amazing local foodie event.