

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Amy Blankstein
Just Food, Grants & Communications Manager
212-645-9880x243
amy@justfood.org
www.justfood.org

Just Food Wins Bank of America's 2010 Neighborhood Builders Award

New York City, November 17, 2010. On Tuesday, November 16, 2010, at a reception at the New York Public Library, Just Food received Bank of America's prestigious Neighborhood Builders® Award. The award recognizes Just Food for its work building healthy New York City communities through fresh, healthy, locally-grown food.

"It is an honor for Just Food's work to be recognized by such a prestigious award from Bank of America. For more than 15 years, Just Food has provided resources and training to New Yorkers and rural and urban farmers to work together to build a healthier, more sustainable New York City," said Jacquie Berger, Just Food's Executive Director.

Just Food is building a robust local-family-farm economy and growing healthier citizens — all while shrinking our collective environmental footprint. Since 1995, Just Food has been the leader in connecting New York City residents of all economic backgrounds with local, sustainably-grown food and the local farmers and urban gardeners who grow it.

In 2010 alone, Just Food's programs served a population of more than 130,000 New Yorkers. The organization's programs teach New Yorkers to grow their own food; create direct connections to local food producers; cook healthy, delicious meals; and advocate for a more just and sustainable food system.

Just Food is one of two non-profit organizations to be named 2010 New York City Neighborhood Builders®, the nonprofit category of the Neighborhood Excellence Initiative. Each organization will receive \$200,000 in unrestricted grant funding and participate in Bank of America's Neighborhood Excellence Leadership Program® with other nonprofit leaders from 44 communities across the country and London. Bank of America's Neighborhood Excellence Initiative has provided more than \$3.15 million in funding and leadership training to nonprofits in New York City since 2004.

"Through our Neighborhood Excellence Initiative, we are helping to generate meaningful and cumulative economic and social impact at the local level where it's needed most," said Jeff Barker, New York City president, Bank of America. "In New York City and across the country, we are leveraging the combined strength of our philanthropy and lending and investing initiatives to help set opportunity in motion for organizations, families, individuals and entire neighborhoods."

"As the population of our City grows, and the economy continues to struggle, we have seen a rapidly growing need for the services we provide. This growing need spurs us to action, and this year we will respond by supporting the development of new CSAs, new urban agriculture-based farmers markets, new farm-to-food pantry partnerships, and so much more," said Jacquie Berger. "This award will give us a tremendous boost in offering these services to more communities in need, not only this year, but far into the future."

To learn more about Just Food's programs or to find out how you can get involved, please visit www.justfood.org or call 212-645-9880, ext. 243.