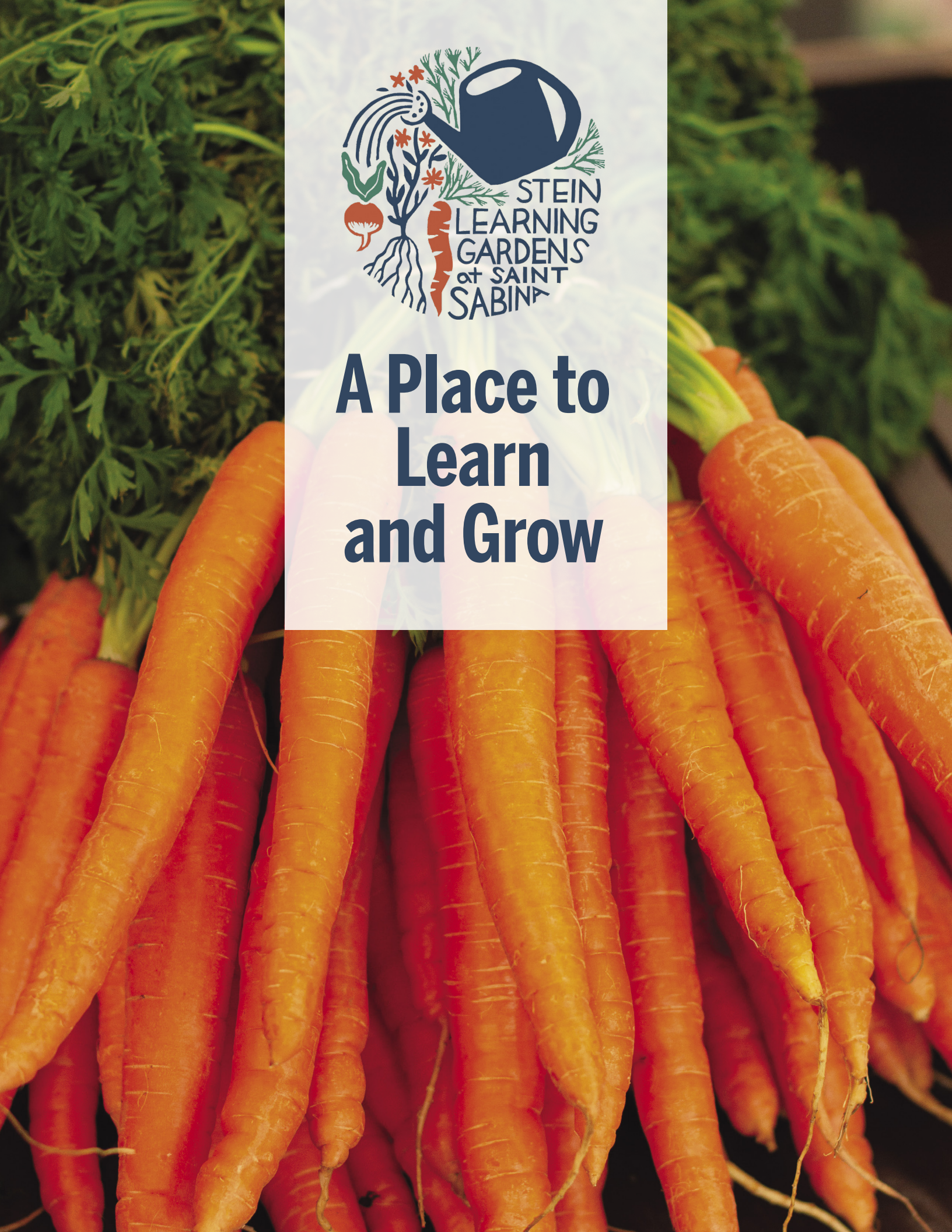




A Place to Learn and Grow





A young student discovering the pleasures of growing food.

WHO WE ARE AND OUR MISSION

OUR MISSION We are committed to high-quality garden education and community programs that create positive learning experiences, encourage healthy lifestyle choices and increase community members' access to fresh and affordable healthy produce.

OUR HISTORY We were founded in 2018 by local philanthropist, Barbara Stein, inspired by the work of activist priest Father Michael Pfleger in Auburn Gresham on the south side of Chicago. Since our inception, children from the St. Sabina Academy and the community have come to the garden to learn how to grow food and develop a healthy lifestyle. From March 2020 until now, we have alternated between in-person and virtual classes to serve our stakeholders.

In 2020 we completed construction on a 6,000 sq. ft. farm and community food hub site at 7834 S. Racine and distributed more

than 5,800 home garden kits for students on Chicago's South and West sides collaborating with Chicago Grows Food.

In 2021 we continued with Grow Kit production and distribution and opened Barbara's Market, a weekly farm stand that offers fresh, locally grown organic produce supported by a suggested donation model.

OUR COMMUNITY Auburn Gresham (97% Black), located on the southside of Chicago, is ravaged by food insecurity and poverty. There is a 30-year life expectancy gap between predominantly White residents in Chicago's Gold Coast and Auburn Gresham. A significant driver is the lack of access to quality produce and nutrition education. With the support of volunteers, students, and community leaders, we create food access opportunities and communicate the importance of encouraging healthy lifestyle choices.



HOW WE DO IT

Our primary focus is food insecurity. The student population includes the children at the Saint Sabina Academy (Pre-K to 8th Grade, 100% African-American, all free lunch eligible), children in after-school care at the Ark of Saint Sabina, and various guest summer classes throughout the community.

We provide access to affordable organically grown produce through Barbara's Market. Using a donation-based system, we can get beautiful produce into the diet of people who typically could not afford to buy it or travel to an area where it is available. We grow our produce in

our raised beds designed to separate our food production from any possible soil contamination. We supplement what we grow with produce from black-owned farms within the community.

We offer classes to the community regarding proper nutrition and offer work experience in Urban Agriculture to community members.

We also support the establishment of community gardens replacing garbage-strewn lots that formally operated as a haven for illegal activity with safe spaces for children to play and community members to gather and grow their food.

“The Stein Learning Garden was the main contributor to starting our Black on Black Love Community Garden in Auburn Gresham. Without the volunteers... the garden may not even have started.”

Valerie Goodloe, 86th and Carpenter Block Club President

OUR SUCCESSES AND FUTURE PLANS

Stein Learning Gardens has a strong history of executing successful education and urban farming projects in Auburn Gresham for local community members. Food, for us, is a tool that facilitates the building of healthier and safer communities. When young people are well fed and connected with strong mentorship opportunities, they are more likely to build their community.

We can serve up to 200 clients per week through our classes and a further 50 clients on average from our weekly farm stand. Our community garden work impacts entire blocks and showcases the benefits of transforming disused spaces. With additional funding, we can complete the gardens we have worked on, influencing imitators and assisting the development of new sites.

FUTURE PLANS

In 2022 we plan to construct a season extension structure to expand our ability to grow organic produce year-round and help us develop into a larger production farm that can employ youth from the area. This site (one of two growing areas managed by Stein Learning Gardens) currently includes a cold storage facility for harvested produce, Barbara's Market farm stand, three 25x 4 feet raised beds, and event space. The addition of a hoop house to this site will allow us to extend the growing season for most crops currently grown. We project that the hoop house will add about two months to the growing season. Conservatively, that would increase our expected yield by 15%.

Barbara's Market will expand to two days of operation starting the Spring of 2022, extending



hours for one market day during the summer. Additionally, we are creating a Food Justice Ambassadors Program to hire youth from the community to work at the farm stand.

We would also like to increase our ability to offer community classes, including but not limited to soil science, soil remediation, composting, growing your food, and healthy eating. Finally, in tandem with our work with the Black on Black Love Community Garden and the Shavon Deane Memorial Garden, we would like to take on more community garden partners.

We can increase our impact on a chronically underserved community with support even in such uncertain times. We need funding to construct our hoop house, which will allow us to farm for eleven months a year compared to the current eight months. We can reach self-sufficiency in our farm stand.

We can add more classes, increase outreach to include directions on starting a community garden, and train youth for the burgeoning Urban Farming Industry. Chicago is nationally in the top four Urban Farming communities, and the South and West sides have much more available land than the Northside and downtown. Urban farming is a viable career that can create a lifestyle that combines the best of urban and rural living.

We need financial help to add a second day to our farmstand. We will serve more clients helping us reach self-sufficiency by the end of 2022. This additional day will also allow us to create employment for other community members and continue the work envisioned by our late founder Barbara Stein.



Far left: raised beds in our Nurture Life Gardens; **left:** Our collaboration Black on Black Love Community Garden at 8616 S. Carpenter; **top:** Production Manager Marlon English in front of our farmstand; **below:** original learning garden near 79th and Racine in Auburn Gresham.

HOW TO DONATE

Please scan the QR code for a direct link to our giving page



or donate at <https://www.sabinagardens.org/donate>

CORPORATE SPONSORSHIPS

Would your company like to join Lowe's, Walsh Construction and The Autobarn Volvo Mazda Nissan as a partner with Stein Learning Gardens, whether financially or by donating goods and services?

Please contact richard@sabinagardens.org

VOLUNTEER YOUR TIME

We love our volunteers and have many opportunities at Stein Learning Gardens, including helping us with production, Grow Kit assembly, and Community Garden Support.

If you would like to receive a tour of our social justice campus or discuss volunteering opportunities, please email Richard at richard@sabinagardens.org or call at **847.942.9024**

“I have high blood pressure, and I’ve noticed that in our neighborhood, there’s no real good place to get fruits and vegetables. And I came across this booth that had fruits and vegetables, and I picked up some, and the hospitality was very nice, the people were beautiful and had a smile and treated you with respect.”

Denise Davis, Barbara's Market client

Donations are tax deductible. Federal tax ID number 36-2171123
Stein Learning Gardens at St. Sabina 7834 S. Racine Avenue, Chicago, IL 60620