



## Growing Places Garden Project, Inc.

325 Lindell Avenue Leominster MA 01453 0145

**Incorporation Year:** 2001

[www.growingplaces.org](http://www.growingplaces.org)

**Organization Contact:** staff@growingplaces.org Joanne Foster

Community Improvement, Capacity Building Community & Neighbourhood Development



**CEO/Executive Director:** Ms. Joanne C Foster

**Board Chair:** Ms. Andrea Freeman Mass Public Health Association

**Mission Statement:** At Growing Places (GP), we believe in the power of gardening to improve lives. We help individuals, families, and communities realize the many health, economic, and social benefits of gardening by building gardens and the skills to maintain them in low-income communities in central Massachusetts.

**Needs Statement:** 1) 1. Capacity: We struggle to keep up with the demand for our services. We need a staff position dedicated to operations and volunteer recruitment and coordination. At 30 hours a week this would require an additional \$25,000 a year, at a minimum, in operating support.  
2. Capital: We need additional tools and equipment to support our gardening installation and maintenance. A few key items include: Pick Up Truck—6 foot bed, doesn't have to be new, but in good condition--\$15,000-\$30,000, 4-6 Hand Drills—for building frames and frame repairs--\$200-\$400 each  
3. New Office Space: we currently maintain two spaces, an office and a warehouse. We would like to find one space where we could bring both aspects of our operations under one roof. We need an office to accommodate 4-5 people, a small meeting space, and warehouse space at a minimum of 2000 sq feet, with a loading dock. Cost up to \$1500 month, adding \$8400 to our annual operating expenses.  
4. Volunteers: To serve 50 gardeners each year, we need to recruit, train and support 50 mentors.  
5. Organic Garden Materials: We would like to have the ability to create our own compost or develop a partnership with an organic compost developer who would supply to our gardeners at free or little cost. The same goes for seedlings. Our ideal would be to have our own greenhouse facility to start and care for seedlings.

**Impact Statement:** Collaborations with partner organizations and individual gardeners, along with the support of thousands of volunteers, have made it possible for us to build gardens and grow gardeners across the region. A few samples of some of our most recent projects include;

- 3 School Gardens in Fitchburg—provide nourishment for the mind and body for hundreds of school children.
- A senior center deck in Leominster—10 container gardens line the sundrenched deck of the Leominster Senior Center providing a healthy, community building activity and access to fresh, healthy vegetables for 10 low-income seniors.
- A veteran's home in Gardner—at the edge of the parking lot at the residential home for 11 single, low-income vets, 4 raised bed gardens offer fresh, affordable food and a healthy outlet for stress reduction and overall mental wellbeing.
- A reclaimed lot in Fitchburg—the Prichard Street Garden helped to reclaim a vacant, trash strewn lot in downtown Fitchburg. In partnership with the Twin Cities CDC, the community garden provides access to affordable, healthy fruits and vegetables to 9 low-income households and has helped to build a sense of pride in enjoyment the Elm St. neighborhood. GP has identified the following strategic goals and programming priorities for FY2013:

- Development and implementation of impact assessment metrics and tools aligned with the new GP logic model,
- Strategic participation in regional collaborations addressing socially just food systems.
- The development and implementation of a comprehensive volunteer recruitment, retention and evaluation strategy;
- Development of program and project models that are adaptable to meet the needs of the individuals, families, and communities we work with; and,
- The development of programs and activities which can develop and build a network of gardeners who can support each other, and help to sustain gardening in the region.

**Full-time Staff:** 1

**Volunteers:** 150

(excludes part-time staff)

## Programs Detailed on Profile

Building Gardens

Education and Support

Building a Community of Gardeners

**Projected Revenue:** \$160,600.00

**Projected Expenses:** \$160,301.00

Fiscal Year	2013	2012	2011
Total Revenue	\$144,222	\$155,600	\$121,607
Total Expenses	\$140,481	\$148,110	\$131,169

### Top Funding Sources

Fiscal Year	2013	2012	2011
Top Funding Source & Dollar Amount	--	--	--
Second Highest Funding Source & Dollar Amount	--	--	--
Third Highest Funding Source & Dollar Amount	--	--	--