



Summer Volunteer Opportunities

We are in need of volunteers, high school age and up, for New City Breaktime Summer Day Camp (serving 2nd-5th Grade students). Volunteers are needed Monday-Thursday to serve in the following positions:

• **Tutor** (12:30-1:30pm)
Serve as a mentor and guide to students' academic success by providing one on one support.

• **Activity Assistant** (10am-12pm)

• **Van Driver** (9am-10am, 2pm-3pm)

*Contact Alaina if you are interested!
alainad@newcityneighbors.org or
(616) 970-4817*

Stories

June
2016

The Newsletter of New City Neighbors

Please make sure to read the enclosed letter for an exciting update on our Executive Director search!

Our summer newsletter features New City Farm, continuing our trend of focusing on one of our ministries each quarter.

A year ago, New City Neighbors was dreaming about what an after school program and year-round employment for high school students would look like. Well, guess what friends? You helped us make these dreams a reality. We successfully completed our first full year of student employment and New City Afterschool and we are thankful for the important part you played to make it happen.

We are so grateful for the high school students who have worked tirelessly running our after school program as well as the students who have been developing key leadership skills for New City Farm. As you'll read in the stories to follow, students have been working hard for the past year and are ready for the next step in their leadership development.

This summer we have 15 high school students that will be working at New City Neighbors and 40 plus younger students who will be joining us at the New City Bakery and New City Breaktime. Three new high school positions have been created in the Bakery and Breaktime, including the position of Bakery Director. This summer our bakery will be led by Avery Smith, who will be a high school junior next fall. He's been involved with New City Neighbors since the third grade when he first came to Breaktime, he continued on to work in the Bakery and on the Farm. We are so excited to see God use him in this new role. The rest of this newsletter is dedicated to stories about New City Farm and the many ways we've seen and experienced growth this year. We look forward to seeing you stop by this summer as you pick up your farm share, purchase some baked goods and produce, or help tutor a Breaktime student!



Christian, Makayla, and Lance working on the Farm after school.



Customer Service with a Smile - D'metrik West

Hello, my name is D'metrik and I am 16 and going into my senior year at Wellspring Preparatory High School. I have been working at New City Farm for one year and this will be my second summer. I am the 2016 New City Farm Customer Service Manager. I believe I was chosen for the management of customer service because I am a very outgoing person and love getting to know our customers. Did I mention I'm very good at my job? I enjoy helping others every day and putting smiles on their faces. The daily tasks that I tend to are helping others with their shares, making sure the stocks are full, and welcoming customers with open arms. I've learned that there must be good communication between you and the customer. It requires patience because our produce pickup can get busy. I look forward to getting to know every single one of the people we feed this summer. Hope to see you soon!!!

Save the Date!
New City Neighbors
Fall Auction
November 3, 2016
The Cheney Place



Our Vision: A city of peace and prosperity. Our mission: To empower youth to reach their full potential.

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A new field New City Farm planted this spring

A New Season- Joel Schramm

Farm work is in its very nature seasonal, so perhaps it is a bit of a redundancy to say that here at New City Farm we are entering a new season. While this is true in a literal sense, it is true in an organizational sense as well. We are excited about all the growth happening. The increased membership and additional building projects are great, but the growth we are most excited about relates to the high school students we serve. This winter was our first chance to expand on our flourishing summer job and life skills program.

From September to June, we've continued employing and training six of our high school students. They received raises, were given new responsibilities, and prepared for the next season where they would help lead, teach, and mentor the new students coming into the summer

program. This level of year-round influence in these kids' lives has been a dream for us for a long time, and it is very fulfilling to see it be realized. Unlike our summer hours with the students, which can require a large commitment from them, we try to keep education the number one priority during our after-school employment. Students work six hours a week, arriving after school and helping with farm chores, marketing, and planning. Once a week the farm students ate a meal with the other high school employees in New City Afterschool. We use this joint time to work through a curriculum focusing on next steps in the students' lives. Jobs skills, resume building, interviewing experience, and college prep are all important topics we cover to help ensure the kids leave our program ready for the world after high school.

We are often asked how it is possible to be farming and employing students through the winter. Our infrastructural growth has been focused on season extension, in hopes of providing sufficient work and income to keep students busy all year. In fact, we are actively growing in the fields and under greenhouse and hothouse structures from the beginning of March to the end of December. January and February are reserved for going over business plans, reviewing seed orders, marketing strategies, and greenhouse work, in which all of the students take an active role. By the time summer rolls around and new students join us, our after-school employees are veterans, ready to take on leadership roles. In May we sit down with the students and discuss their strengths and weaknesses. Each student is challenged to lead their peers in a particular area of work on the farm. They are encouraged to discover gifts and use them to teach others. Without exception we have seen every one of our students grow throughout the year. This is perhaps the most exciting proof that our dreams and work toward year-round programming have been worthwhile. There is no telling just how far they can take this farm, their peers, and their own growth this coming summer.

New Farmstand & Bakery Hours this Summer

Mondays & Thursdays 12:30-6:00pm: June 20th- August 4th

Make sure to reserve your Monday and Thursday afternoons to stop by New City Neighbors and pick up some tasty treats made by our middle school student in the Bakery, as well as some fresh produce at our Farm Stand. You can also place a bakery order online! Go to www.newcityneighbors.org and visit our bakery page. All orders must be placed by Tuesday at 12:00pm in order to be picked up on Thursday afternoon.

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www.newcityneighbors.org



Meet Christian

Could you introduce yourself to our readers? How old are you, what school do you go to, etc.?

My name is Christian Hinkle. I'm 15 and go to Innovation Central High School. I really love music- all types of music as long as it's not bluegrass. I play 5 instruments: tuba, ukulele, piano, guitar, and drums.

How long have you been working at New City Farm?

I'm going into my second year.

If you could only use three words to describe your time at New City Farm, what would you use?

Hard. Colorful. Christian/Religious.

What do you like doing on the farm? Why is it better than the other jobs?

That's a very, very tough question. I have two favorites, I think. During the summer, I like doing the photo voice project* because it gets me out of weeding, it is different than the other tasks we do, and we get doughnuts out of it. During the fall, I enjoy being in the kitchen because I get to cook good food.

What do you dislike to do on the farm?

Weeding and pruning. I won't say much more.

What are you looking forward to about this upcoming summer season?

I'll get paid \$8.50 an hour and the field trips will be fun.

Is there anything else you want our readers to know about the farm?

If you are looking for a youth employment system, this is probably the best one out there. New City Farm makes you work hard, you learn a lot, and you can stay for two years before doing other work.

**The Photo Voice Project is done in collaboration with Calvin College. This project utilizes photography as a way for students to reflect and process what they are learning.*



Farming for the Future

Hello, my name is Brennan Pascal Persenaire Hogeterp (it's a doozie of a name I know). I am 17 and go to Grand Rapids Christian High. I come from a different background than most. I was born in Jos, Nigeria and raised in West Africa for a total of 11 years. I came to the USA about 4 years ago. I came here with no knowledge of what on earth would happen next in my life. My first 2 years were filled with uncertainty. I didn't know if we would ever go back, what I would do with my life, or how I would make friends (my English was very bad at that point). The one thing I knew was that I wanted to change the world. Africa had shaped me into the person I am today and I want to repay that debt. I would like to become an agricultural engineer and help solve world hunger. It is somewhat of a big goal and some might scoff, but New City Neighbors is helping me accomplish it.

I began working for New City Farm the start of last summer. I never had a real job before and was looking forward to working. That summer I found a confidence and leadership in myself that I never knew I had. Lance and Joel helped me in my discovery and encouraged me to take my leadership and confidence further as the farm manager. I have learned so much in this past year from customer service to what on earth arugula is (it is a salad green and it is delicious, if you are wondering). Throughout my time at New City Farm I have been given tools for the future that I can use to change the world.

Ministry Wish List

- Field Trip Lunches - \$50
- Farm Muck Boots - \$300
- Kitchen & Baking Supplies - \$500
- Student Employment - \$1,000