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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Food Project Receives Grant from American Heart Association

BOSTON, MA – The Food Project was recently awarded a community impact grant by the American Heart Association to help fund Lynn Grows.

Lynn Grows is a comprehensive, multi-faceted plan for deep-rooted food system change in Lynn that will increase access to affordable healthy food in economically, environmentally, and socially sustainable ways. The City of Lynn struggles with economic disparity, food insecurity, and elevated rates of nutrition-related illnesses. The Food Project has coalesced residents and community organizations into a steering committee that envisions a place and culture where residents of Lynn have access to the resources needed to make healthy decisions around their food choices, and will pursue initiatives to that end.

“Lynn Grows is an exciting model that grows on the relationships between The Food Project, dedicated residents, and impactful community organizations to support locally grown, healthy, and affordable food access in Lynn’s schools, markets, stores, and restaurants,” said J. Harrison, Executive Director of The Food Project. “These changes will support a healthier Lynn, and we are grateful for the support of the American Heart Association in this endeavor.”

Today, 24.4% of our local population have high blood pressure and about one in three American children and teens is overweight or obese, putting them at a higher risk of heart disease and stroke. The American Heart Association’s community impact grant program focuses on funding and working with community-based organizations that are working toward their mission of building healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. With their support, programs like Lynn Grows will have the opportunity to provide invaluable resources and education to help build a sustainable culture of health in communities so that all Americans live in environments that support healthy behaviors, timely and quality care, and overall well-being.

“The Boston Board of Directors of the American Heart Association and the American Stroke Association is committed to achieving health equity for all members of the community,” explained James McGrath, Chairman of the Boston Board. “We hope that our support of The Food Project and its innovative approaches will allow us to form a lasting partnership that improves the health of our communities.”

About The Food Project

Since their founding in 1991, [The Food Project](#) has grown into a nationally-recognized non-profit organization that works at the intersection of youth, food, and community. For more than 26 years, The Food Project has brought youth and adults from diverse backgrounds together on their farms to produce healthy food for residents of the city and suburbs to build a local and sustainable food system. The organization believes that food is a unique vehicle for creating personal and social change. The Food Project aims to transform our food system into an equitable and inclusive model that is community controlled and supports food justice for all.

About the American Heart Association

The American Heart Association is devoted to saving people from heart disease and stroke – the two leading causes of death in the world. We team with millions of volunteers to fund innovative research, fight for stronger public health policies, and provide lifesaving tools and information to prevent and treat these diseases. The Dallas-based association is the nation’s oldest and largest voluntary organization dedicated to fighting heart disease and stroke. To learn more or to get involved, call 1-800-AHA-USA1, visit heart.org or call any of our offices around the country. Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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