

August 17, 2015

Aetna Foundation Supports The Food Project's Community Outreach and Education Programs

Media Contact:

Alice Poltorick, apoltorick@thefoodproject.org 781-259-8621, ext. 30

Dorchester, MA – The Food Project is pleased to announce a \$25,000 grant from the Aetna Foundation. Funding will support a number of community outreach and education programs in the Dudley neighborhood of Boston including:

- **Build-a-Garden** – which builds raised-bed gardens for residents in the community and provides support for recipients to grow their own food. Participants are provided with seeds, transplants, informational workshops, growing guides, and other support.
- **Farm to Family** – a program that aims to remove barriers to access healthy food by allowing low-income families in Dorchester and Roxbury to purchase a weekly share of produce from The Food Project's farms during the summer and fall at a reduced price. Participants can also use SNAP benefits to purchase their weekly shares.
- **"Grow Well, Eat Well, Be Well"** – a multi-faceted initiative that offers community members the opportunity to attend gardening and cooking workshops, and other events led by The Food Project staff, youth, and community members, while fostering deeper connections to the community and one another.

"We are deeply grateful to the Aetna Foundation for supporting our work," said J. Harrison, executive director of the Food Project. "This funding will allow us to build on and invest in programs that connect our farms and urban neighborhoods; provide fresh, healthy and local produce to our neighbors in Boston's Dudley neighborhood; and most importantly help to create a healthier neighborhood."

To find out how you can support The Food Project's mission to create a thoughtful and productive community of youth and adults from diverse backgrounds who work together to build a sustainable food system, visit: www.thefoodproject.org

About The Food Project

[The Food Project](http://www.thefoodproject.org) is one of the largest regional farming and food access organizations in Massachusetts. Since 1991, more than 1,400 youth have participated in our leadership development programs. We farm approximately 70 acres on three suburban farms, four urban farms, and two greenhouses throughout Massachusetts, and distribute our produce through farmers markets, subsidized farm shares, and to hunger relief organizations.

