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James Harrison named Executive Director of The Food Project
Brings 10 years of experience with the organization to leadership position

Lincoln, MA – The Food Project announced today that James Harrison, a 10-year veteran of the organization, is named Executive Director, following a national search conducted by The Food Project’s Board of Trustees.

As Executive Director, Harrison will oversee operations of the organization, which for over 20 years has been a national leader in the area of youth development and sustainable agriculture. Harrison has served as Acting Director of The Food Project since October.

“What is so extraordinary about The Food Project is that the work we do locally on our farms, at community meetings, at our farmers markets, and at hunger relief organizations, is so personal and human-scale. Yet, at the same time, the models and programs we develop and share help shape youth leadership and food systems work across the country. The Food Project is a place of growth, transformation, and hope, and it is an honor to be chosen to serve as Executive Director,” says Harrison.

Harrison, known as “J.,” began his career in sustainable agriculture by founding a farm and CSA program in Minnesota, which fueled his passion and interest in improving our food system. In 2003, in order to gain a deeper understanding of organic agriculture, J. became a certified organic inspector for farms throughout New England. He subsequently joined The Food Project in 2005 as the North Shore’s founding Farm Manager. In his role as the North Shore Regional Director, J. was a community leader who laid the foundation for the expansion of the youth programs on the North Shore and was invaluable in establishing the farm sites in Beverly, Lynn, and most recently Wenham, MA. On state and regional levels, J. is active in food policy advocacy work.



“We are very excited that J. will lead the organization into the future,” says Dylan Sanders, Chair of The Food Project’s Board of Trustees. “In addition to a deep history with the organization—and the stability that comes with it — he brings an exciting vision for how The Food Project will continue transforming youth and our neighborhoods in new and more effective ways. Moreover, J.’s leadership style models the core values of The Food Project. He brings a passion for breaking down barriers and making connections across communities—actions which are so important to transforming our food system.”

[The Food Project](#) is one of the largest regional farming and food access organizations in Massachusetts. Since 1991, more than 1,200 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.

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