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Capuchin farm project serves harvest dinner

AUGUST 13, 2009

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If you love locally grown and in-season produce, get your ticket now for Earthworks Urban Farm's second annual Harvest Dinner on Saturday, Sept. 12.

ADVERTISEMENT Earthworks Urban Farm is a project of the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit.

The event will start at 5 p.m., with a social hour in the garden, light appetizers and a garden tour.

The dinner made of southeast Michigan foods will follow at 6 p.m., at Gleaners Food Bank, a longtime Capuchin Soup Kitchen partner, at 2131 Beaufait, Detroit.

Tickets run \$15-100 on a sliding scale.

"Folks are welcome to pay what they feel it is worth, or they are able to pay," said Patrick Crouch, Earthworks program manager.

The organization encourages ticket-holders to buy an additional \$25 admission for someone who can't afford to attend the dinner.

Grace Lee Boggs, a long-time Detroit activist for sustainable communities and social justice, will be the guest speaker.

The menu will include dishes made from recipes submitted by many of Earthwork's partners. Organizations such as SEED Wayne, the Greening of Detroit, and the Detroit Black Community Food Security Network plan to submit a favorite in-season recipe for the occasion.

"We will be trying to source as much as possible from our gardens, but all will at the very least be in season, and locally grown," Crouch noted.

Local chefs assisted by Earthworks' teen farmers (Youth Farm Stand) and local volunteers, will make the dinner.

Ticket information is available online at www.cskdetroit.org/earthworks or calling (313) 579-2100, ext 204. Or send a check by mail along with a registration form — available online — to 1264 Meldrum, Detroit, MI 48207 Write checks to "Capuchin Soup Kitchen" with the number of tickets and "Harvest Dinner" noted in the memo line. Reservation deadline is Friday, Sept. 4.

PITCHING IN

Earthworks welcomes volunteers to help plant, weed and harvest its gardens. Volunteers also teach local youth about the importance of healthy living and mentor young adults involved in Earthwork's Youth Farm Stand program.

Other tasks include extracting and bottling honey, making jam, pouring handbalm and beekeeping.

Individuals may attend any volunteer work sessions; groups should schedule time a day in advance.

Volunteers help tend the gardens from 9 a.m.-noon Wednesdays and Saturdays (except holiday weekends) during the growing season. Adult mentors may visit the Growing Healthy Kids program from 4:45-7:30 p.m., Thursdays and the Youth Farm Stand program from 4:45-7:30 p.m., Tuesdays. The organization makes jam in October and November.



Volunteers pitch in at Earthworks Urban Farm, a project of the Capuchins.



Earthworks supporters gather for the first annual Harvest Dinner in 2008.

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All volunteers meet at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen at 1264 Meldrum, Detroit. For more information about Earthworks Urban Farm, visit www.cskdetroit.org/EWG/index.cfm Or call (313)-579-2100, ext 204.

For more information about the Capuchin Soup Kitchen, which was founded in 1929, visit www.cskdetroit.org.

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