Harvest:
Investing in Prevention

A new funding model for long-term food education and food security.

Registered Charitable #: 85895 9026 RR0001

GROWING Chefs!



SPM Financial™

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ALLEN'S

Lasting change needs long-term funding

Growing Chefs! is doing essential work. We help children build the skills, confidence and connection to understand food and feed themselves well.

Creating lasting community impact requires sustained, multi-year investment, yet most traditional giving models are focused on one-time gifts and annual giving.

For organizations working to create systemic change, time spent securing program funding could be better utilized to scale what already works, increasing community impact.

For Growing Chefs! a multi-year funding model would help sustain and grow our work so that we can meet the scale of the need in our community.

A new pathway for sustained impact

Local food security research has identified food literacy and food education as essential to long-term community food security – and called directly for new, dedicated funding streams to support this work.

The evidence is local, rigorous and specific.

Growing Chefs! is already recognized as the community asset positioned to help close that gap. **Sustained funding is now needed to match that potential.**

The Growing Chefs! investment model provides a path to sustained funding. Over a 5-year term, investors keep their capital, but donate the investment income earned.



Donor-investors open an account with a pre-approved investment manager of their choice. SPM Financial can provide options that help you benefit from lower pooled fees with full transparency.

Annual returns over a 5 year period will be donated to Growing Chefs!. The investor's capital is preserved until the end of the 5 year term and Growing Chefs! earns a predictable, sustainable funding stream.

How the model works

Growing Chefs! Philanthropic Investment Account

01

Invested capital

Donor-investor opens an account with a pre-approved investment manager of their choice.

02

Professional management

Funds are professionally managed according to the investor's goals.

03

Annual contribution

Investors instruct their Managers to choose to donate either the annual investment income earned or a fixed 5% to Growing Chefs! for 5 years.

04

Food education impact

Sustained, predictable funding for the hands-on food education that helps children and communities thrive.

Capital is preserved. Impact compounds.
Giving becomes part of a long-term financial strategy.

Why this model and why now?

The model works when an organization is proven, efficient, locally recognized, and working on a problem that is both urgent and long-term.

Growing Chefs! has 20 years of evidence-informed programming, a reach of 10,000 - 12,000 children annually, the financial discipline of an established social enterprise, and an explicit identification by the Middlesex-London Community Food Systems Assessment as a unique community asset.

Annual contributions go directly toward the hands-on food education that helps children and families build skills, confidence and connection. This is the preventative work that strengthens community food security before crisis becomes the only option.

"As funders, we can be leaders in challenging traditional giving models that do not work. Innovation is the only way we can scale our response to the needs of the community. For us, it was an easy decision to set up a Philanthropic Investment Account, so that Growing Chefs! gains 5 years of secured income from our designated account. The goal to help kids get excited about healthy eating deserves our long term commitment."

- Lina Bowden, Chair, Cambia Development Foundation


GROWING

Once you have made a decision about the amount of capital and if all or a percentage of the income will be donated, the rest is managed by your portfolio manager.

You have the freedom to choose your investment managers, approaches, and fund options. Additionally, you gain access to lower pooled management fees, greater accountability and control over your giving, and a structure that remains fully compatible with other ways you choose to give. Each investor will have the final say on how their gift is acknowledged and will receive quarterly impact reports from Growing Chefs! – including programming details, staff, volunteer and participant testimonials – delivered through their investment manager.

Growing Chefs! Ontario and SPM Financial are seeking a founding circle commitment of $1 million. This is an opportunity to be a part of something genuinely new, and to help prove that it works.

Join the founding circle

Growing Chefs! is building a founding circle of donor-investors: people who want their capital to do more than give back, but to work strategically for long-term community impact. This is a new approach to philanthropy: creating a sustained, multi-year funding stream for food education that allows Growing Chefs! to plan ahead and reach more children – consistently, not episodically.

A model designed specifically for people who think carefully about how their capital is deployed, who want to see rigorous evidence behind the organizations they support, and who believe that solving complex community problems requires long-term investment. By joining this founding circle, you are not only supporting a highly effective organization. You are helping to demonstrate that private capital can fund long-term community change in a way that is strategic, transparent and replicable. And you are helping to build the model from the ground up. Founding participants will help define how this model works, how it grows, and how it is replicated beyond this community. The window to shape this is now.

To learn more or join the founding circle:

Experience it: Join us for a hands-on Growing Chefs! workshop and culinary experience and see firsthand why this work matters.

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