



Harvest:

Investing in Prevention

*A smarter funding model for long-term
food education and food security*

Registered Charitable #: 85895 9026 RR0001



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Why long term 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. But sustaining that work and growing it to meet the scale of the need, requires more than annual fundraising.

Creating lasting community impact requires sustained, multi-year investment, yet most traditional giving models are not designed for that kind of consistency. One-time gifts are meaningful, but not ongoing. Annual gifts require renewal each year, creating uncertainty for organizations trying to plan and grow. For organizations working to create systemic change, this can mean spending as much time securing funding as delivering programs – limiting their ability to scale what works and invest in the future.

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. What's needed now is the sustained capital to match that potential. The Growing Chefs! investment model offers a new pathway. Rather than asking donors to give from income or savings, this model redirects capital that is already working in their investment portfolio.



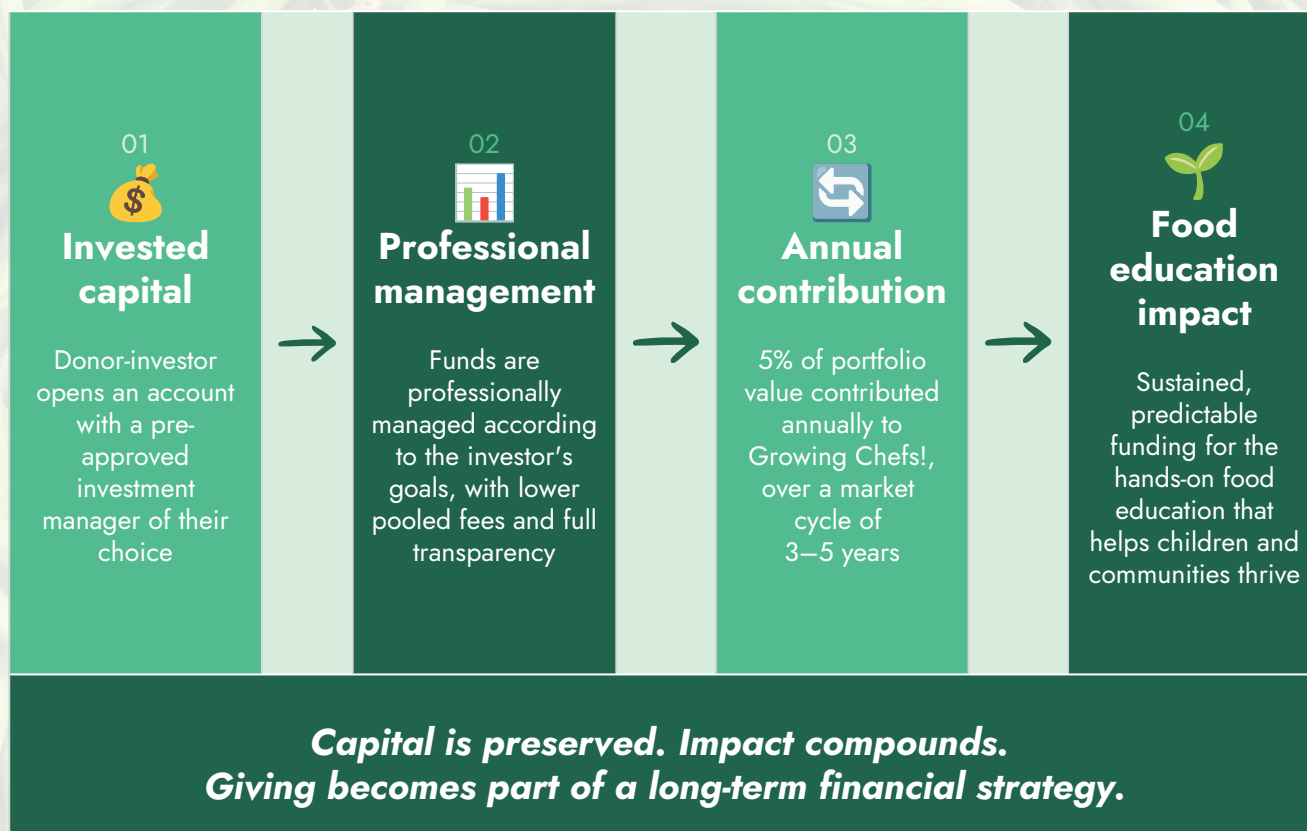
"Investor Impact Quote"

Through a partnership with **SPM Financial**, donor-investors open an account with a pre-approved investment manager of their choice. Funds are professionally managed according to their investment goals, benefiting from lower pooled fees and full transparency.

The investment objective is to compound 5% over a market cycle of three to five years, with 5% of portfolio value contributed annually to Growing Chefs!, thereby creating a predictable, sustainable funding stream regardless of short-term market fluctuations.

How the model works

The Growing Chefs! Philanthropic Investment Program



Why this model and why now?

Not every organization is the right vehicle for this kind of investment — 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! meets every one of those criteria: 20+ years of evidence-informed programming, a reach of approximately 12,000 children annually, the financial discipline of a significant social enterprise, and an explicit identification by the Middlesex-London Community Food Systems Assessment as a unique community asset.

"Helping to teach and support a healthy and sustainable relationship with food, and with the local agri-food system, is one of the most important tasks of the Middlesex London Food Policy Council. Growing Chefs! is a national leader in delivering this type of programming and we are very pleased to be able to support their educational and outreach activities in the London Middlesex community."

- Benjamin Hill, Chair of the Middlesex London Food Policy Council

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.

This means no upfront donations; instead contributions are an annual percentage of your portfolio value, along with the freedom to choose from a range of 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 \$5 million by January 2027. 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, just as the Middlesex-London Community Food Systems Assessment calls for.

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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