



Mentor Application

Return completed applications to:
Growing Places | 500 Main St. | Suite 209 | Clinton, MA 01510

Date: ___ / ___ / 20 ___

Name: _____

Gender (optional): Male Female Other

Address: _____ Apt. or Unit # _____

Preferred method(s) of contact: home phone

City _____ State _____ Zip: _____

mobile phone

Home Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____

email

Mobile Phone Number: (____) _____ - _____

texting

Email: _____

texting not ok

Preferred Language to speak/ read: _____

How did you hear about Growing Places? _____

Employment: unemployed full time part time retired other: _____

During the course of the growing season (April – October), when would you be available to serve as a mentor?

weekdays

weeknights

weekends

(M-F, between 8am and 5pm)

(M-F, between 5pm and 8pm)

(Sa-Su, between 8am and 8pm)

Are there any times when you would be unavailable to serve as a mentor (e.g. a planned vacation or educational commitment)?

To which of the following towns that Growing Places serves would you be willing to travel?

Fitchburg

Leominster

Gardner

Clinton

Shirley

Check all types of vegetable gardening or gardening-related activities with which you have experience.

raised bed gardening

in-ground gardening

traditional row planting

square-foot method

container gardening

seed starting

seed saving

food preservation

composting or vermiculture

How many years of vegetable gardening experience do you have?

0 years

1-5 years

5+ years

Why is vegetable gardening important to you?

Why do you want to be a Mentor with Growing Places?

Take a moment to consider the following possible mentor scenario:

You have been assigned a first-year gardener with three young children. She is a single mother and is very excited not just to learn about gardening, but to share the experience of growing her own food with her family. She has also told you that she is depending on this fresh produce to supplement her groceries this summer as she works to provide healthier meals for her children.

Throughout April and May you begin to establish a good working relationship with her and by June her garden begins to flourish.

In mid-June, however, you receive a distraught phone call from her. Upon going to tend her garden that morning, she discovered that all her pepper plants have been chopped off at soil level and are now laying flat on the ground, rapidly wilting in the sun. Not only does she have no idea what happened, but she no longer has any pepper plants left and she had *really* been looking forward to harvesting fresh peppers. She is very upset and worried that more plants will be destroyed soon if she doesn't act quickly.

How might you respond to her?

Growing Places keeps all information private and confidential. Please review the job description attached. By signing below, you agree to accept the responsibilities of a Garden Mentor if approved.

Thank you for your interest in volunteering with Growing Places!

Applicant Signature

Date

Please return completed application to Growing Places | 500 Main Street, Suite 209 | Clinton, MA 01510
Phone/Fax (978) 598-3723 | Email: staff@growingplaces.org | www.growingplaces.org

Demographic Information: The following questions are optional and for internal purposes only. Your information will be kept confidential and is used anonymously for statistical and grant reporting purposes only. Your responses will not affect your chances of being accepted as a Garden Mentor. Thank you.

1. Race:

- Black or African American
- Asian
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- Native American or Alaska Native
- Caucasian
- Other _____

2. Ethnicity:

- Spanish/Hispanic/Latino
- Non-Hispanic/Latino
- Other: _____

3. Marital Status:

- Married
- Single
- Separated
- Cohabiting
- Divorced
- Widowed

Become A Growing Places Garden Mentor!

At Growing Places (GP), we believe in the power of gardening to improve lives. We help low-income individuals, families, and communities realize the many health, economic, and social benefits of growing their own produce by building food gardens and the skills to maintain them in low-income communities in north central Massachusetts. Each garden is designed based on needs and for sustainability and built by a team of volunteers.

GP does not just build gardens; we build the capacity to garden. This entails mentoring new gardeners until they can succeed independently. Our Garden Mentors Program is crucial to our gardeners' success. Mentors serve as our key volunteers who encourage our gardeners throughout the growing year and provide one-on-one gardening coaching and advice. Mentors work with GP Gardeners for up to two years, or until the gardener feels confident to advance on their own.

Our Mentors are...

- Passionate about vegetable gardening
- Friendly and community minded
- Enthusiastic about sharing their gardening knowledge
- Interested in learning new gardening techniques
- Committed to GP's program of growing gardeners
- Tolerant and respectful of individual differences

Our Mentors receive...

- Training and GP teaching materials
- Support from GP staff
- Opportunities to enrich their own gardening experiences

Our Mentors agree to...

- Make up to a 2- year commitment
- Attend a mandatory orientation
- Spend two to three hours per month one-to-one per gardener, including four visits to the garden site per year
- Communicate regularly with their gardener and GP

For more information, or to sign up as a Garden Mentor, please contact staff@growingplaces.org or call 978 598 3723 x802.