

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 5, 2016

Contact: Laura McDonald Communications Specialist (212) 341-2258

GrowNYC's Fresh Food Box Program Begins Pick-ups for the 2016 Season

New York, NY—GrowNYC's Fresh Food Box season kicks off at 21 locations throughout Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens and the Bronx this week. From now until November, residents and community members of all income levels have the opportunity to sign up for a bag of farm-fresh produce for the low price of \$12 using cash, credit, debit, and SNAP. This season, 7 new sites across Manhattan, Brooklyn and the Bronx were added. For the first time, three Fresh Food Box sites will also collect food scraps for composting. The goal of the Fresh Food Box program is to increase healthy food access in the city's most underserved neighborhoods while helping to keep mid-sized family farms in production.

"Fresh Food Box is one of the most affordable ways for New Yorkers to access fresh, healthy produce and is a win-win for both the customers and the farmers," says GrowNYC Executive Director, Marcel Van Ooyen. "We are excited to have even more Winter Fresh Food Box sites so we can keep as many New Yorkers as possible eating fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables throughout the cold winter months."

To participate, customers pre-order bags one week in advance on the designated distribution day. The next week, they can pick up their Fresh Food Box containing 7-9 seasonal fruits, vegetables, and grains, along with healthy recipes and tips on how to store and prepare the produce. All of the produce comes from family farms selling through GrowNYC's own wholesale food hub and distribution arm, <u>Greenmarket, Co.</u> The power of bulk purchasing allows for the incredibly low price while mid-size family farmers still receive a fair price for their products ensuring they will be able to continue supplying the residents of New York City with fresh, healthy, local food for years to come.

Open to the public, all are welcomed and encouraged to find a nearby Fresh Food Box site for an affordable and convenient way to eat healthy, seasonal foods. For more information please visit <u>www.grownyc.org/foodbox</u>.

Check locations for distribution times – Pre-order Required

BRONX

New Site Bella Vista Health Center 890 Hunts Point Avenue Fridays, 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm July 8th – November 18th Community Partner: Urban Health Plan

New Site BronxChester BronxWorks

725 St. Ann's Avenue Thursdays, 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm July 7th – November 17th Community Partner: Urban Health Plan

BronxWorks

1130 Grand Concourse Wednesdays, 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm Year Round Community Partner: BronxWorks & Farm to Preschool *This site collects <u>food scraps for compost</u>.*

New Location Claremont

CS 55 - 450 St. Paul's Place Wednesdays, 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm July 6th – November 16th Community Partner: Claremont Healthy Village

BROOKLYN

Ace Head Start 1419 Broadway Wednesdays, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm June 6th – November 16th Community Partner: Farm to Preschool

St. Marks Head Start

2017 Beverly Road Wednesdays, 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm July 6th – November 16th Community Partner: Farm to Preschool

Inner Force Tots Learning Center

1181 East New York Avenue Fridays, 3:00 pm – 6:00 pm June 10th – November 18th Community Partner: Farm to Preschool

Halsey Community Garden 462 Halsey Street Saturdays, 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

June 4th – November 19th Community Partner: Halsey Community Garden

North Brooklyn YMCA

570 Jamaica Avenue Wednesdays, 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm June 6th – November 16th Community Partner: YMCA

MANHATTAN

1 Centre Street 1Centre Street - Under the Arches Thursdays, 2:00 pm – 6:00 pm Year Round Community Partner: MBPO & DCAS

Two Bridges

50 Madison Street Thursdays, 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm July 7th – November 17th Community Partner: Two Bridges Neighborhood Council

Bellevue Hospital

462 1st Avenue – in the Rotunda Thursdays, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm Year Round Community Partner: Bellevue Hospital

Hudson Guild Head Start

459 West 26th Street Tuesdays, 2:30 pm – 6:00 pm July 5th – November 22nd Community Partner: Farm to Preschool

Lenox Hill Senior Center

70th Street & 1st Avenue Tuesdays, 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm Year Round Community Partner: Lenox Hill Senior Center *This site collects <u>food scraps for compost</u>.*

New Site Ben Kallos Council Office 244 East 93rd Street Thursdays, 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm

July 7th – November 17th Community Partner: Ben Kallos Council Office

New Site East Harlem Asthma Center of Excellence

161-169 East 110th Street (just off Lexington) Thursdays, 2:30 pm – 6:30 pm Year Round Community Partner: East Harlem DPHO

Family Health Center of Harlem

1824 Madison Avenue Thursdays, 3:30 pm – 6:30 pm July 7th – November 17th Community Partner: Family Health Center of Harlem

New Site Uptown Grand Central

125th Street & Park Avenue, under the MetroNorth Station Wednesdays, 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm Year Round Community Partner: NEHMA *This site collects <u>food scraps for compost</u>.*

Nicholas Cardell Day Care Center

84 Vermilyea Avenue Wednesdays, 2:30 pm – 6:00 pm July 6th – November 16th Community Partner: Farm to Preschool

QUEENS

Adventureland Child Care Center

32-04 31st Avenue Fridays, 2:30 pm – 6:00 pm July 8th – November 18th Community Partner: Farm to Preschool

Hunters Point South

1-50 50th Avenue Saturdays, 11:00 am – 2:00 pm June 11th – November 19th Community Partner: Hunters Point South Community

####END######

GrowNYC is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization that works to make New York City more sustainable, and improve the lives of all New Yorkers. Reaching two million New Yorkers every year, GrowNYC operates Greenmarket farmers markets, engages New Yorkers in recycling education and resources, builds and maintains green spaces and engages young people in hands-on education. Learn more at www.grownyc.org.