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## **GrowNYC and Council Member Vacca Bring Seed to Plate Education to Public Schools in the Bronx**

New York, NY – GrowNYC’s Greenmarket program announced today that, thanks to generous funding from New York City Council Member James Vacca, 300 5<sup>th</sup> graders at PS 97 and PS 71 in the Bronx will learn how to eat, cook, and shop for fresh healthy food through the *Seed to Plate* curriculum starting May 9<sup>th</sup>. *Seed to Plate* is a 10-lesson, in-school curriculum designed to address the need to teach New York City school children about food, including where it comes from and why that matters.

The *Seed to Plate* curriculum is standards-aligned and was designed in collaboration with the [Center for Food and the Environment at Teachers College Columbia University](#) and is operated by Greenmarket, a program of the non-profit environmental organization GrowNYC. Utilizing fun, interactive learning experiences, *Seed to Plate* teaches students about nutrition, sustainable farming, and cooking, and nearly every lesson includes a tasting of seasonal products from the farmers market. Students from PS 97 and PS 71 will take field trips to a nearby Greenmarket and to Queens County Farm, and will also be visited by a trained chef and a farmer to round out their experience.

“We are so grateful to Council Member Vacca for his support of the *Seed to Plate* program,” says GrowNYC Executive Director, Marcel Van Ooyen. “As our country’s food system has become more industrialized many children today do not have a true understanding of where their food comes from and the importance of eating a diversity of fresh, healthy fruits and vegetables. This program is designed to bring kids back in touch with where and how food is grown and will foster a lifetime of healthy eating.”

“Encouraging healthy living is one of my biggest priorities and it all begins with nutrition,” says Council Member James Vacca. “It’s important that children are informed about what’s in their food and where it comes from. Children need to be educated about what is healthy for them to eat, so they can make the right choice. GrowNYC’s *Seed to Plate* program is an excellent way to get children excited about healthy food and I’m proud to support this program.”

In the spring of 2012, *Seed to Plate* was launched in three New York City public schools and GrowNYC has since taught the curriculum in 11 New York City public schools. Designed to be a comprehensive, flexible and replicable curriculum for 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, *Seed to Plate* helps tell the story of local food in a way that will motivate greater behavioral change.

Though GrowNYC selects a limited number of schools to receive *Seed to Plate* each year, any school, K-12 is invited to sign up for School Tours at Greenmarket, available from April through December.

Greenmarket is a program of GrowNYC that was founded in 1976 with a two-fold mission: to promote regional agriculture by providing small family farms the opportunity to sell their locally grown products directly to consumers, and to ensure that all New Yorkers have access to the freshest, most nutritious locally grown food the region has to offer. Today Greenmarket operates 53 farmers markets in all five boroughs and programming has grown to include Greenmarket Co., Youthmarket, Fresh Food Box, and the Wholesale Greenmarket.

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GrowNYC is a 501c(3) nonprofit organization that helps residents make ours the most sustainable city in the world. Reaching millions every year, GrowNYC operates Greenmarket farmers markets, engages New Yorkers in recycling education, builds and maintains green spaces and works with young people to provide hands on environmental education. Learn more at [www.grownyc.org](http://www.grownyc.org).