

**Growing Neighbors Dornsife Student Worker Job Description**  
**Summer 2023: 40 hours per week**

- I. **Growing Neighbors' core mission** is helping neighbors grow and share healthy food and relationships.
- II. **Growing Neighbors** is a new, entrepreneurial, missional experiment, as part of Shadle Park Presbyterian Church, that started taking shape in 2016. We want to collaborate with a variety of community partners to grow and share healthy food and relationships primarily through urban farming and community development. We want to see all neighbors treating each other more like family, and the planet more like our common home.
  - Our core leadership are people of faith in Jesus, but student workers and other neighbors are welcome to participate in the movement regardless of faith background or practices. We seek to cultivate an environment where all are invited into loving and caring for one another. We desire shalom for the whole community of creation, including those with whom we live, learn, work, play, or pray.
  - We are connecting neighbors and caring for nature by growing:
    - Equitable Access to Food
    - Organic Edible Gardens
    - Little Free Pantries
    - Sustainable Food Delivery
    - Community Composting
    - Collaboration & Education
    - Generosity & Hospitality
    - Love, Joy, Hope & Peace
- III. **Anti-Racism Statement:** Our commitment to fostering an environment of equity & inclusion.
  - The Growing Neighbors family is highly motivated and committed to fostering an environment of equity and inclusion. We have a great ongoing relationship with many local refugees and refugee-care organizations. We are deepening relationships with multiple predominantly BIPOC-led organizations. We seek to care well for all neighbors, including those who have been oppressed, or are vulnerable, and want to keep learning how to do this better. All are welcome to participate in the Growing Neighbors movement and we have partnered with well

over 100 organizations in Spokane including schools, churches, non-profits, businesses, libraries, coalitions, and neighborhood councils.

IV. **Summary of Student Worker's Role:**

- Serve as an ongoing associate for John Edmondson, Growing Neighbors Director. The fellow would be trained by John including shadowing, ongoing partnership, and delegation of key responsibilities related to the strategic plan for Growing Neighbors.

V. **Job Description:**

■ **Specific Responsibilities:**

a) **Continuing the development and implementation of Growing Neighbors including working with SPPC staff and volunteers to:**

- (1) Coordinate volunteers for and manage Farmers' Market booth at least once a week from June-Sept.
- (2) Help start, expand and maintain urban farms as well as our farming resource hub.
- (3) Build relationships and develop plans with community partners.
- (4) Improve GN's online presence and communication practices.
- (5) Facilitate neighbor connections and gatherings as we build "neighborhood families."
- (6) Develop and guide one or more "Urban Farming/Neighboring Teams."
- (7) Find funding for GN through grant applications, fundraising events, seeking individual donors, and train and work with Farmers' Market sales teams.
- (8) Help participants and other local neighbors discover their gifts and needs and develop new ways to share their gifts and meet each others' needs.
- (9) Help local neighbors discover ways to be better stewards of their resources, care for the environment, eat, cook, and preserve healthy food, be more physically active, and care for one another.
- (10) Look for and encourage opportunities for new neighborly associations to form for neighbors to learn, eat, play, study, build, exercise or worship together.

b) **The students' specific actions will depend some on their specific gifts and passions as well as the specific needs of our community at the time of their service.**

■ **Goals:** Our hopes for this summer through the presence of a student worker?

- a) To enhance our 3 half-day summer camps focused on gardening, art, and cooking.
- b) Recruiting more volunteers to join in on existing programs so they will be more sustainable, including community composting and food deliveries via bicycle.

- c) Expanding our fundraising events and donor base to help sustain the movement and make us less dependent on grant funding.
- d) Maintain our existing farmyards and start new ones particularly among marginalized and vulnerable communities.
- e) Help us communicate better across our various programs so folks who engage with us in one way will gain better awareness and access to our other opportunities to serve or be cared for.
- **Leadership Opportunities:**
  - a) The student will have opportunities to train and guide a variety of volunteers. Some volunteers will be involved short-term, some long-term, some individually, and others in small or large groups.
  - b) Leadership opportunities will also be provided through maintaining and expanding partnerships with other local organizations that have some connection to our mission.
- **Desired Skills:**
  - a) We desire someone with some experience working with youth and/or kids, growing, cooking, preserving, and composting local food and/or keeping bees or caring for farm animals. We desire someone gifted in meeting new people and organizing teams to work together in creative ways. Administrative skills are desired and will be developed through data and resource organization. We need someone willing to get dirty in the garden and be open to learning new things and trying a variety of things. Construction/crafting/art skills would also be handy for designing, building, and/or decorating signs, raised beds, compost bins, chicken coops, and other potential structures.

#### VI. **Supervision:**

- Supervision will be provided primarily by our Family Ministries Director and Growing Neighbors Director, John Edmondson. The student will work closely with him and receive daily “on the job” training with him at least for the first couple of weeks. As the student develops relationships with neighbors, volunteers, and partners, they will begin taking on more unsupervised tasks while also taking time to reflect and check in with John on at least a weekly basis, but likely several times a week depending on the week. Other training classes offered by the community will be encouraged and the student will work closely with at least one “Neighborhood Family” that is connected with at least one “Urban Farming Team.” The student may also attend and represent GN at community meetings and may receive some supervision from community partners.
- The student will also work in partnership with one or more other interns/student workers.

#### VII. **Expectations:**

- Desirable skills and characteristics:
  - Experience with urban farming and/or environmental sustainability

- Ability to work well with others, meet new people, develop and work with teams and community partners.
- Friendly, reliable, organized, and willing to take risks.
- Competent working with digital data and organizing paperwork and physical resources/tools.
- Set good personal boundaries and seek sufficient self-care.
- Be coachable and open to learning new things and helping others learn from each other.
- Having access to reliable transportation would be best, but not mandatory. We can work on carpooling and other creative transportation as needed.
- We also prefer someone that is willing to potentially continue with this work and remain connected with Growing Neighbors at some level at least over the course of the school year following the summer. It would be most beneficial to invest at least 2 years and/or summers so as to bear more fruit from relationships built.
- Weekly schedule will vary, but could include:
  - 3 hours of emails/texts/calls
  - 10 hours of hands on time in gardens
  - 5 hours of planning and/or implementing communal meals/gatherings
  - 10 hours of preparing for and leading a farmers' market booth
  - 3 hours of sustainable food delivery
  - 2 hours of managing community composting
  - 2 hours attending a community partner meeting
  - 2 hours meeting with GN Director and/or Core Team
  - 3 hours training and/or hosting guest volunteer groups

VIII. **Contact Information:** Who will directly supervise the fellow? Provide contact information for this individual including email and phone.

- John Edmondson
- [JEdmondson77@gmail.com](mailto:JEdmondson77@gmail.com)
- 509-389-7941

IX. **Calendar of Events for the Summer:**

- If possible, we would love a student who is able to continue at least through September. Our farmers' markets extend into the fall. We could slightly reduce hours of work per week during the summer, and then taper down into the fall.
- General Time Frames/Calendar of Events
  - Mid-late May: major planting time for warm weather crops at a variety of farmyards
  - June-Sept: Farmers' Market booth each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, or Friday from about 3-7 as well as set up, clean up, and harvesting in the morning.
    - a) Possibly more than one farmers' market

- Helping to plan/host Garden Tours and maybe a fundraiser run/walk/bike in June
- Hosting Growing Neighbors Camp one week in July
- Hosting Growing Chefs Camp one week in August
- Developing a plan for Growing Artists Camp and Benefit Art Show
- Volunteer Appreciation event in September
- End of Season Hoedown in October (love for the student to join us even if the work hours are technically done)
- Weekly food deliveries and community compost pick ups
- Weekly communal meals (often on Tuesday nights)
- Weekly communal gardening gatherings
- Occasional block parties
- Potentially helping with a Family Camp near a river or lake in early August and/or a Service-learning trip to Eloheh Center for Indigenous Earth Justice near Portland
- Creative events/gatherings based on the student's gifts and passions