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Growing Healthy Kids holds inaugural meeting



[Caitlin Giles](#)

on 01.28.10 at 1:17 PM | [no comments](#)

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In response to growing health concerns about Chicago's kids -- including obesity, type 2 diabetes, and decreased physical activity -- several local organizations and individuals within the Chicago food community have joined together to develop new ways of sourcing, providing and thinking about food.

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This newly formed group recently gathered at the Logan Square Kitchen for the inaugural *Growing Healthy Kids* Meet & Greet to begin their efforts.

Spearheaded by [Melissa Graham, founder of Purple Asparagus](#), a non-profit dedicated to bringing families back to the table, the event focused on bringing together all city groups dedicated to educating children about nutrition, gardening, the environment and how to lead a healthy, sustainable life. "We wanted to provide non-profits working with Chicago kids around issues of food and wellness an opportunity to meet and learn more about one another so that they could find ways to collaborate. The issues facing our city's children are huge and daunting and not one organization can solve them alone," said Graham.

The gathering brought together both non-profit groups and other active school lunch partners like Chartwells Thompson Hospitality, the main food service company for Chicago Public Schools (CPS). Many of the participating organizations work specifically with CPS to improve kids' understanding of where food comes from and how it affects their health.

Participants included:

- Academy for Global Citizenship
- Chartwells Thompson Hospitality
- Chicago Botanic Garden
- Common Threads
- Crop To Cup
- Food Atelier
- Fooditude
- Fresh Connections
- Good Food Project
- Gourmet Gorilla
- Grant Kessler Photography
- Green City Market
- Growing Power, Inc.
- Healthy Schools Campaign
- Logan Square Kitchen
- Nora Gainer, NGD Marketing, Inc.
- NURTURE
- Organic Life
- Purple Asparagus
- Sandy Noel, District 96 Oak Park
- Seven Generations Ahead
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- Tev Bond, Consultant

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The Kids Table

Trisha Reynolds, Consultant

Urban Worm Girl

We Farm

Chicago kids certainly deserve better food and lifestyle choices and I am eager to hear more about this powerhouse collaboration and their future plans -- definitely a step in the right direction.

Published in [Chicago Botanic Garden](#), [Eco-Friendly](#), [Edible Garden](#), [Fun With Food](#), [Fun for the Whole Family](#), [Go Green](#), [Green City Market](#), [Health and wellness](#), [community](#), [early childhood education](#), [gardening](#), [health and well-being](#) and tagged [Academy for Global Citizenship](#), [Chartwells Thompson Hospitality](#), [Chicago Botanic Garden](#), [Chicago Public School lunch program](#), [Common Threads](#), [Crop To Cup](#), [District 96 Oak Park](#), [Food Atelier](#), [Fooditude](#), [Fresh Connections](#), [Good Food Project](#), [Gourmet Gorilla](#), [Grant Kessler Photography](#), [Green City Market](#), [Growing Healthy Kids Meet and Greet](#), [Growing Power](#), [Healthy Schools Campaign, Inc.](#), [Logan Square Kitchen](#), [NGD Marketing](#), [Nora Gainer](#), [NURTURE](#), [Organic Life](#), [Purple Asparagus](#), [Sandy Noel](#), [Seven Generations Ahead](#), [Share our Strength](#), [Slow Food](#), [Tev Bond](#), [The Kids Table](#), [Trisha Reynolds](#), [Urban Worm Girl](#), [We Farm](#)

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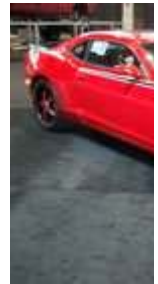
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