Rooted in Ferguson
Growing Food, Farmers, and Community

EarthDance
EarthDance was founded in 2008 to preserve the oldest organic farm west of the Mississippi & to train the next generation of organic farmers.
Neighbors buying produce from Al & Caroline at the Mueller Farm (date unknown)
Our Mission

To sustainably grow food, farmers, and community, one small farm at a time, through hands-on education and delicious experiences

Our Vision

Organic farmers feeding their communities
Communities caring for the land
Farms inspiring creativity
EarthDance Offers

Farm & Garden Education

Tours, Workshops, & Public classes

Volunteer Opportunities

Fresh, Local, Certified Organic Produce

Youth Programs
EarthDance Farm & Garden Apprenticeship
Connect with each other & the land
Learn the skills to make agricultural dreams a reality
Take home a share of the harvest
YEAH! (Youth Exploring Agriculture & Health)
Junior Farm Crew
School Visits
Intergenerational Garden Program
Community Engagement
Community Food Assessment
Free, Family-Friendly Farm Tours
Let’s build a better food system for everyone, together!
You can support EarthDance & the Good Food Movement by:
Shopping at the Ferguson Farmers Market
Bringing your friends & family out to the farm
Attending Farmers Formal
Donating your time & passion
Spreading the word about importance of healthy soil, food, & communities
Non-Profit Cultivates Food, Community, & Hope in Ferguson, MO

On a neighborhood street in Ferguson, Missouri, flanked by fields of spinach and beets, is a hand-painted sign announcing, ‘Muellers Organic Farm, Homegrown Fruits & Vegetables.’ This is the EarthDance Organic Farm School—the sign pays homage to the Mueller family, a pioneering organic farming family that established this farm in 1883.

In 2008, agroecologist and future farmer Molly Rockmann started a non-profit organization to support work on a small parcel of land at Mueller Farm; she called it EarthDance. Four years later, EarthDance purchased the Mueller Farm to both preserve the historic Mueller Farm and connect people with the land through community food production. Today, EarthDance farms about 3.5 acres on the 14-acre parcel.

The green fields, small brick farmhouse, greenhouse, and flowers at EarthDance stand in contrast to the Ferguson that has been depicted in the news in recent months; yet the highly diversified system of vegetables, herbs, and flowers at EarthDance is located just about a mile from the Ferguson police station. EarthDance’s vision: organic farmers feeding the world, communities caring for the land, and farms inspiring creativity.

EarthDance staff of 11 organizes and offers a wide variety of programs and activities for Ferguson and surrounding communities, some of which have been supported through NCR-SARE Youth Educator and Farmer Rancher grants. A brief history of EarthDance’s SARE-supported work includes a farm apprenticeship program, a summer camp for youth in 2011 and 2012; a Junior Farm Crew Program that pays and trains high school students; the installation of a pear orchard to increase the availability of local, sustainably grown fruit; and the “greening” of a greenhouse with sustainable energy solutions. These activities focus on sustainable growing methods and quality of life for the surrounding communities, which are a priority for Rockmann.

The EarthDance Farm and Garden Apprenticeship Program teaches organic agriculture through hands-on education in fields and markets using experienced farmers and gardeners.

“I have never been more re-committed in my belief in humanity than to see the hard work and compassion for one another and our planet that has been so evident in our apprenticeship class each year,” said Rockmann. “One of the reasons that I started our apprenticeship program was to connect more people to the Mueller Farm so that it could remain a productive organic farm. We have achieved that goal each year.”

Jennifer Fleischmann, a Saint Louis native and the Marketing Coordinator at EarthDance, says that with more than 170 graduates of the program, projects like the apprenticeship program socially and economically empower Ferguson. She says SARE’s support has enabled their impact on sustainable agriculture to be more widespread.

“Another SARE-funded project includes learning about the future food leaders in EarthDance, who are members of the program. The program graduates include young farmers who have left with knowledge and skills to start their own farms. We are seeing those conversations turn into positive changes in the food movement.”

Sharing this example of our community-based Organic Farm School with others
Thank You from EarthDance Organic Farm School!

www.earthdancenfarms.org