





Our Mission

Gaining Ground's mission is to grow and distribute fresh, organic produce to Boston-area meal programs, shelters, and food pantries with the help of community volunteers.

GAINING GROUND

Each growing season, volunteers of all ages and backgrounds work and learn together in Gaining Ground's garden – planting seeds, tending plants, and harvesting produce. Since 1994, our thriving program has grown thousands of pounds of organic produce, which is donated to food pantries, meal programs, shelters, and hunger relief programs. Gaining Ground also provides educational workshops for groups interested in learning more about topics related to our activities, such as alternative land use and environmental education.

Beyond growing food, Gaining Ground grows a community. Through its efforts, Gaining Ground benefits a full spectrum of people – from those who help grow the food to those who receive it.



“It felt good to do some hands-on work knowing that it would have immediate results ...”

OUR GARDEN

The main garden of Gaining Ground is located in Concord, Massachusetts on nine acres of farmland behind the birthplace of Henry David Thoreau, American writer and naturalist. This agricultural land – rich in history and under cultivation for more than 300 years – provides an appropriate setting for nurturing plants and inspiring minds.

Gaining Ground also operates a smaller, 19th-century reproduction garden on the grounds of The Old Manse, once home to Nathaniel Hawthorne and to the Emerson family. Volunteer opportunities are available at both sites for one visit or many during the growing season.

Our volunteers include:

- individuals of all ages
- people of diverse backgrounds
- skilled gardeners and novices
- one-time visitors and regulars
- community organizations
- restorative justice programs
- community service programs
- garden clubs
- local businesses
- corporations
- public and private schools
- urban groups
- churches
- synagogues
- other faith communities
- sports teams
- and more...



OUR VOLUNTEERS

The Gaining Ground garden is a grassroots, volunteer-driven operation. Thousands of volunteers are the heart of our program, providing the energy, skills, and enthusiasm necessary to grow produce for hunger relief. Volunteers give whatever time they can – some help once a season, others every day. They all work with the guidance of a professional garden instructor.

THE RESULTS

Throughout the harvest season, thousands of pounds of fresh, organic produce from Gaining Ground's garden go to shelters, food pantries, meal programs, and other hunger-relief programs throughout Greater Boston and Eastern Massachusetts.

Requests for food assistance are high and continue to grow, showing the strong need for our program. Besides growing much-needed produce, Gaining Ground provides a valuable, unique learning experience for our thousands of volunteers, who work and learn in our garden.



HOW TO CONTRIBUTE

Gaining Ground is a non-profit organization that relies on donations to ensure its ongoing success. Your contribution enables our program to continue to make an important difference within the community. You can help Gaining Ground by making a donation, volunteering in the garden, volunteering in our office, contributing needed items, or passing this brochure along to others who may be interested in our work.

growing food
growing community





YOUR SUPPORT HELPS US GROW

Since its inception, Gaining Ground has enjoyed the ongoing support of a wide range of individuals, organizations, and agencies. Our program has been recognized by local, state, and national grants, and featured widely in the media. The generous support of volunteers and donors lets us continue to work to provide hunger relief, educational opportunities, and much more.

To find out more about Gaining Ground call 978-369-7281 today!



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• Gaining Ground, Inc. is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization.