“What gardening teaches us is that if you plant things, they’ll come up. But you have to be willing to wait for them to bear fruit because things are seasonal.” – Alice Walker

Many people may not know that my Jones Valley Teaching Farm experience began over 9 years ago. I had just finished my career at Southern Progress Corporation as a Marketing Manager at Cooking Light magazine. For 8 years, I focused my efforts on national projects surrounding health, food, and community but had never explored those very things in my own back yard. I found my way to what was then called Jones Valley Urban Farm in downtown Birmingham where one of its founders, Edwin Marty, opened the trailer door and invited me in. I began doing marketing and communications work in exchange for vegetables (many of which I had never seen before) and from there, I created a food blog and began writing about my farm and food experiences. That journey led me to pursue professional opportunities focused around food and community at the United Way of Central Alabama and the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama. All the while, I continued to support and cheer Jones Valley Urban Farm on from afar.

When Grant Brigham was appointed the next executive director, I watched the organization change to Jones Valley Teaching Farm and shift its mission to partnering directly with Birmingham City Schools. It is hard to believe that I’m writing to you as its third executive director after all of these years. Jones Valley Teaching Farm has grown our education model from one school to seven schools in the Birmingham City Schools system. We’ve shifted our organizational model from a small staff that included the Americorps VISTA program to creating employment opportunities for full-time instructors and student interns. As I reflect on Alice Walker’s quote above, I’m reminded of just how long it takes for an organization to grow and change. This was evident this year when we watched the orchards that were planted when we when we first launched Good School Food finally begin to bear fruit this year. We have an exciting journey ahead of us and I look forward to continuing to grow with you.

With Gratitude,

Amanda Storey
Executive Director
Jones Valley Teaching Farm

Instructors deliver experiential lessons that align with rigorous academic standards in core subjects, including math, science, social studies, and English language arts.

Five of our school partners are located in the Woodlawn community, which means students have the opportunity to participate in our program from preschool through high school graduation.

“Jones Valley Teaching Farm is one of the most impactful success stories in Birmingham right now and I am very proud to have been a small part of it since the beginning. This program is truly one of the leading examples of a food-based education throughout our entire country.”

— Frank Stitt, Highlands Bar & Grill, Bottega, Bottega Café, Chez Fonfon
We grow food to feed young minds.

Mission:
Jones Valley Teaching Farm uses the power of growing food to transform and improve a young person’s pre-K-12 educational experience. We build vibrant, student-centered Teaching Farms on school campuses to provide an environment where young people can learn, create and explore, and grow a healthy future for themselves and their community.

Vision:
Our vision is for all students to have a transformative educational experience using food, farming, and the culinary arts as a foundation for learning.

Our Work:
Jones Valley Teaching Farm designs and builds vibrant urban teaching farms and outdoor classrooms on Birmingham City School campuses where we deliver Good School Food, our hands-on education model to more than 4,500 pre-K-12 students each year.
Good School Food connects students to food, farming, and the culinary arts through standards-based, cross-curricular lessons during the school day. Full-time Instructors and Teaching Farm Fellows collaborate with teachers in every grade level to develop lessons and projects that align with learning goals in science, math, social studies, English language arts, and health.

Through our skills-based after school programs, students grow, harvest, cook and sell produce from the Teaching Farm located on their school’s campus.

“Jones Valley Teaching Farm’s program touched every student at Putnam Middle School, all 296 of them. Our Instructors often get a better product out of the kids because hands-on learning works.”

– Jerone Wiggins, Director of Educational Programs & Partnerships, JVTF
Each year, a select group of Woodlawn High School students have the opportunity to participate in a paid internship for course credit.

In this internship, students manage a 2-acre urban farm on their school’s campus and sell the food they grow directly to residents of the Woodlawn community.

Mr. Scotty Feltman uses the Teaching Farm at Woodlawn High School as a learning laboratory, connecting students with lessons about soil, compost, plants, and ecosystems.

In the field of education, learning is inevitable and student excitement and involvement are natural outcomes.

— Scotty Feltman, JVTF Program Director, 2016 Teacher of the Year, Birmingham City Schools
Each year, a select group of Woodlawn High School students have the opportunity to participate in a paid internship for course credit. In this internship, students manage a 2-acre urban farm on their school’s campus and sell the food they grow directly to residents of the Woodlawn community.

Graduated Valedictorian of Woodlawn High School Class 2016-2017; Currently enrolled at UAB and focusing on Computer Science.

Graduated from Woodlawn High School Class of 2018; Currently working full-time at Jones Valley Teaching Farm as a first-year Apprentice.

Currently working full-time at Jones Valley Teaching Farm as a part-time Apprentice.

Currently enrolled in the culinary program at Lawson State, recently launched her own cupcake business, and joined Jones Valley Teaching Farm as a part-time Apprentice.

Graduated Salutatorian of Woodlawn High School. Successfully completed a Summer apprenticeship with Jones Valley Teaching Farm.

Graduated Valedictorian of Woodlawn High School Class 2016-2017; Currently enrolled at UAB and focusing on Computer Science.
“PNC is proud of our investment in the Woodlawn High School Teaching Farm internship program. These young men and women work diligently to take ownership of all aspects of the farm — from cultivating seeds, to planning and installing irrigation, to learning the financial skills to succeed personally and as they launch the high school market. We love to see the return on our investment in these students.”

— Nicholas Willis,
Regional President,
PNC Bank, JVTF Board
LEADERSHIP TEAM

Amanda Storey  
Executive Director

Katherine Davis  
Director of Operations

Scotty Feltman  
Woodlawn High School  
Program Director

Rita Means  
Director of Finance  
& Administration

Josh Vasa  
Director of Growth  
& Strategy

Jerone Wiggins  
Director of Educational Programs & Partnerships

Kelly Baker  
W.E. Putnam Middle School  
Instructor

Fernando Colunga  
Hayes K-8 School  
Instructor

Anna Eggers  
Operations Assistant

Hannah Feroce  
Glen Iris Elementary  
Instructor

Joi-Lindsey Garrett  
Henry J. Oliver Elementary  
Instructor

Alan Gurganus  
Avondale Elementary  
Instructor

Jerick Hamilton  
Jones Valley Teaching  
Farm Apprentice

Jessica Hill  
Downtown Campus  
Farm Manager

Leah Hillman  
Education Programs Manager

Mohamed Jalloh  
Woodlawn High School  
Farm Manager

Ann Laurel Latimer  
Operations Manager

Shundria Mack  
Woodlawn High School  
Program Apprentice

Hunter Lewis  
Food & Wine Magazine

Christiania Roussel  
Food Writer

Mike Moss  
Retired, Regions Bank

Nick Willis  
PNC Bank

Ann Marie Eskridge  
Principal, Tuggle Elementary School

Frank Stitt  
Highlands Bar & Grill / Bottega / Bottega Café / Chez Fonfon

Caroline Yeilding  
Morgan Stanley

Rachel Morey  
Graphic Designer & Marketing Assistant

Corniqua Murphy  
Woodlawn High School  
Production Apprentice

Jesse Schaffer  
Senior Farm Manager

Zontavious “Zee” Wilson  
Jones Valley Teaching  
Farm Apprentice
FUNDING
Alabama Power
Appalachian Regional Commission
Alabama State Department of Education
Arlington Capital Advisors
Birmingham Audubon Society
Birmingham Change Fund
Birmingham Originals
Blue Cross Blue Shield: The Caring Foundation
CAWACO
C. Eugene Ireland Foundation
City of Birmingham
Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham
Crook’s Family of Meridian Foundation
Daniel Foundation of Alabama
EBSCO
Encompass Health
Estelle S. Campbell Foundation
Gather Dinner Hosts and Sponsors
James Rushton I Foundation
Jim 'N Nick’s Community Bar-B-Q
Hattie B’s LLC
HealthSouth
Highland Associates
Hugh Kaul Foundation
IPC Foundation
Jim 'N Nicks Community Bar-B-Q
The Nature Conservancy
Newman’s Own Foundation
PNC Bank
Protective Life Foundation
Regions Bank
Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
Susan Mott Webb Foundation
SYSCO of Central Alabama
UAB Benevolent Fund
USDA Farm to School
USDA Community Food Project
Shipt
SRA Foods
Twilight Supper Guests
Vulcan Materials Company
Wells Fargo Foundation
Wells Fargo Neighborhood Lift

COMMUNITY
1504 Pictures
Architecture Works
Alabama Chanin
Alabama Cooperative Extension System
Alabama Department of Agriculture & Industries
Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network
Birmingham City Schools
Birmingham Education Foundation
Birmingham Originals
Birmingham Planning and Zoning
Cary Norton Photography
Chez Fonfon
City of Birmingham
Cooking Light
Community Food Bank of Central Alabama
Corporation for National & Community Service
Edible Schoolyard El Barrio
End Child Hunger in Alabama
Farm Food Collaborative
Farm to School Collaborative
Fatback Collective
Father Nature Landscaping
Food & Wine Magazine
Gather Sponsors
Grow Dat Youth Farm
Hanna’s Garden Shop
Jefferson County Collaborative For Health Equity
Jefferson County Farmers Federation
Jefferson County Health Action Partnership
Jim ’N Nicks Community Bar-B-Q
Johnny’s Seeds
Kingston Neighborhood Association
Leaf N Petal
Little Donkey
The Nature Conservancy
Nourish Foods
Oak Ridge Park Neighborhood Association
The Market at Pepper Place
Park Place
Petals from the Past
Railroad Park
REV Birmingham
Samford University
SHIPT
Southern Living
Time Inc. Food Studios
UAB School of Education
UAB School of Preventative Medicine
UAB School of Public Health
UAB Teach
Urban Ministry
WE Community Cafe/Gardens
Wood Fruitticher
Woodlawn Business Association
Woodlawn Foundation
Woodlawn Neighborhood Association
Woodlawn Street Market
Woodlawn United
Yellowhammer Creative
YMCA Youth Center
YWCA
YWCA Family Resource Center

SOW FAMILIES
Beth & Chandler Bailey
Carmen & Trey Echols
Mary & Braxton Goodrich
Kate & Ford Hamilton
Shannon & Ted Holt

PARTNERS
BY THE NUMBERS

20
Staff Members

900+
Lessons a Year

86%
Standards-Based Learning
Post-test data shows that students scored an average of 86% on post-tests after participating in a unit consisting of a series of 3-5 lessons.

100%
Social-Emotional Development
After participating in after-school Farm Club and Farmers’ Market Club, 100% of students self-reported social-emotional growth in key indicators.

88
Number of Markets
Includes Student-Run Markets, Pepper Place Market, and Woodlawn Street Market.

2,481
Nutrition
The number of children experiencing fresh fruits and vegetables through taste tests so far in the 2017-2018 school year.

35,000
Seeds
35,000 seeds are sown for distribution to seven farm sites via the Woodlawn High School greenhouse.

$32,867
Revenue from Our Teaching Farms
In 2017, Jones Valley Teaching Farm sold $32,867 worth of produce and flowers to the Birmingham community.

326
Total Volunteers
In 2017, Jones Valley Teaching Farm engaged 326 volunteers from corporations, universities, and our community.

21,100 lbs
 Produce Harvested
Jones Valley Teaching Farm harvests approximately 21,100 lbs of produce each year from our Teaching Farms at each school site.

4,367
Students Impacted
The number of students across all seven partner schools

7
WHS Interns
Woodlawn High School students manage the farm, earn course credit, and run a market.

Jones Valley Teaching Farm employs a unique teaching method to enhance public education. We now have the anecdotal evidence and independent validation beyond proof of concept that our model works. We are a viable organization ready to scale our platform.

— Trey Echols, President, Highland Associates, JVTF Board Chair
“Being completely honest, every day when I come here, I think about having fun and doing what I am supposed to do and my future. Like, what I want to do three years from now. I know I want to do something with Jones Valley.”

– Jerick Hamilton
JVTF Apprentice