

BUILDing a Healthy Community

Pay-What-You-Can Market Stands • 2024

SUMMARY

PWYC markets provide fresh, locally grown produce in areas of low income and low access. Markets allow individuals the dignity of contributing if they can, and freely sharing with those who cannot. Our model is: “take what you need, pay what you can.” Beyond access to food, markets serve as a catalyst for building and rebuilding connections to fresh food, deepening connections among neighbors, and strengthening our community.

A coalition of network farmers, growers, community members, and nonprofits come together each season to make this happen across five locations in Erie County: Edinboro, three Eastside locations: 13th & Parade, 7th & East Ave, 23rd & Parade, and downtown in Perry Square.

By the Numbers

75

Market events

3,518

Market visitors

246

FMNP vouchers used

24,772

Lbs of produce distributed

7

Average lbs per person

\$3.83

Average amount collected per person

250

Community Dinner Guests

Community Generosity

\$14,800

Hamot Health Foundation Sponsorship

We appreciate the collective efforts of Grow & Glow Urban Collaborative, Wild Field Urban Farm, Erie Farm to School, Conscious Food Project at Raintree Farms, Erie Downtown Partnership, Blooming Valley Farms, Erie Food Policy Advisory Council, and Groundwork Erie.

We thank the volunteers who lent their expertise, and grew, harvested, gleaned, collected, moved, and distributed food throughout the season to build a healthier, more connected community. And the additional donors who supported financially, or through in-kind donations.

Market Stories

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We hear from community members how eating fresh food is helping with chronic health concerns, elevating their mood, and helping in recovery from surgeries and chemo treatments.

Women visit pre- and post-partum for produce that has been recommended by their doulas.

We shared a peach with a man who was reentering the community after incarceration. He was getting used to sunlight and fresh food after six months.

A whole family tried prune plums for the first time today. The family of five ALL loved them.

A 30-year resident of the neighborhood came by today for produce and shared that her son was experiencing a mental health crisis. PHN Wayne Primary Care was tabling next to us that day and we were able to immediately schedule psychiatric services.

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