



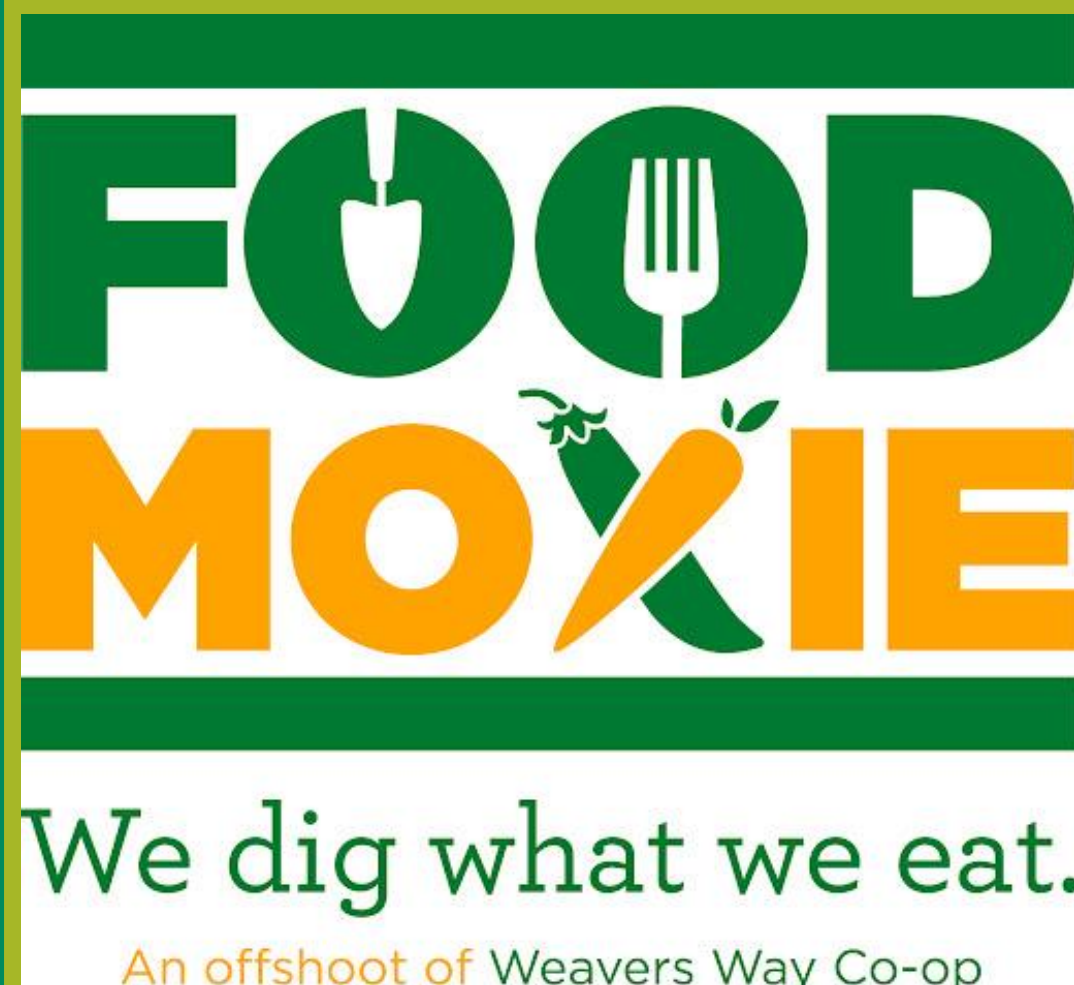
Providing Space: Why Philadelphia Needs Food Moxie

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COMMUNITY PARTNER



Food Moxie // <http://www.foodmoxie.org/>

Food Moxie builds healthy communities by connecting people to the earth and their food, as well as to themselves and one another. The organization strives to empower the people they serve by bringing them fun and educational programming about gardening, providing tools for gardening, and also by feeding them nutritious food from their garden spaces. They have several locations in the city of Philadelphia, and the students primarily worked at their space in the Germantown neighborhood. Food Moxie serves several different populations in the city, but in Germantown, they directly serve families temporarily living in the Stenton Family Manor, which is the second largest emergency family shelter in the city.

PROJECT

During the internship, Kevin and Danny conducted interviews with three different members of the Food Moxie staff. They were educated by them, and also educated themselves on the governmental-level issues which have caused food access instability in Philadelphia and throughout the United States. What they learned enabled Kevin and Danny to contextualize and see more clearly why Food Moxie is vitally needed in Philadelphia. A PowerPoint presentation was made for the project which included audio clips from the interviews, pictures of the beautiful green spaces in which the interns worked, and information collected regarding the healthy food access issues faced by Philadelphians.

REFLECTION

Danny's reflection: My experiences at Food Moxie helped reveal to me the realities of access to healthy food in Philadelphia. Not only does the organization provide access to healthy food to those in need, but they provide engaging and educational programming about gardening to children and their families, which in turn helps to build community amongst participants. From a clinical perspective and as a student of Music Therapy, it was rewarding for me to begin to perceive gardening as part of developing holistic health.

Kevin's reflection: Working at Food Moxie helped me understand the importance of connecting with the communities we try to serve. After speaking with the staff and the participants at Food Moxie, I began to understand that one of the most valuable things the organization provides is a space for people to come and connect with each other and with the earth, sharing knowledge, experiences, and cultures. It was a unique and enriching experience to come out and enter a space that I had little experience with prior, and I think broadening my world view can only be beneficial as I continue on my career path of becoming a physician, where I will be treating patients of all demographics and backgrounds.

PROJECT RESULTS

Our work on the project resulted in a cohesive and comprehensible explanation of what Food Moxie is and why it is important to the city. We explain what purpose it serves to the people it serves, why its existence is necessary in Philadelphia's mission to promote and sustain healthy food access, and also how the organization is forward-thinking in terms of the role it plays in this mission. The presentation also addresses why it would be valuable and beneficial to have Food Moxie's in other cities in the United States.

