

What We Do

Angelic Organics Learning Center helps urban and rural people build local food systems. We offer opportunities to grow healthy food and a better quality of life, connect with farmers and the land, and learn agricultural and leadership skills.

- Our **On-Farm Initiative** offers hands-on learning opportunities at Angelic Organics, a working biodynamic farm.
- Our **Farmer Training Initiative** works to train the next generation of sustainable farmers.
- Our **Urban Initiative** works with Chicago and Rockford communities to build local food systems.



Our Story

Angelic Organics Learning Center was founded in 1998 by biodynamic farmer John Peterson and a group of Chicago-area residents. As members of the Angelic Organics farm, our founders knew first-hand how a farm could help people renew relationships with land, farmers, and community.

Angelic Organics is a community-supported agriculture farm, commonly known as a “CSA.” Families buy a “share” of the harvest and, in return, receive weekly deliveries during the growing season. Today, more than 1,400 local families get their fresh produce from Angelic Organics, making it one of the largest CSA farms in the country.

In 1999, the Learning Center was established as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization and a partner to the Angelic Organics CSA. Since then we’ve become a regional leader helping urban and rural people build local food systems. We transform Angelic Organics into a living classroom for hundreds of kids, adults, and families each year. Graduates of our training programs now lead dozens of new local farms. And from urban gardens to farmers’ markets, we’re preparing leaders in Chicago and Rockford to make positive food system changes in their communities.



Building Leaders

Chris Cubberly was a chef looking for a career change. Inspired by a farmer delivering herbs to his restaurant, Chris eventually found a way to pursue his farm dream, thanks to the Learning Center’s Farmer Training Initiative. On days off he worked with two Chicago-area farms who are members of the Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training (CRAFT). He and his wife Tania enrolled in Stateline Farm Beginnings®, a business planning and mentoring program. Chris praises the Learning Center’s training programs for helping him focus on his goals as a farmer and understanding the hard work required. Now Chris sells produce from their farm—called Red Tail Farm—at local farmers’ markets. “It’s incredibly satisfying to see something completely through from seed to harvest and sale, selling your own things that you’ve grown yourself,” says Chris. “This is my full-time work. I’m very happy about it.”



Monica Logwood is a high school student in Rockford, Illinois, who credits Roots & Wings, a program of the Learning Center’s Urban Initiative, for helping her become a role model for other youth. “In this neighborhood, kids get involved in negative ideas. I know people in gangs... Roots & Wings gets kids involved in positive influences,” says Monica. The program teaches at-risk youth healthy lifestyles and leadership skills through farm and garden-based education and community service. When asked what legacy she wants to leave when she departs for college, she says, “I hope I have had as much of an impact on these kids, as they have had on me.”

Building Community

In the spirit of a traditional barn raising, Angelic Organics Learning Center partners with communities to make good things happen. The result may be a community garden, a new small farm, or an educational mural about good food.

One group came together to build a new picnic shelter at the Learning Center. The space will nurture good food and good company for years to come. Participants in a sustainable building workshop joined volunteers from a local church to turn a dead elm tree into columns, beams, and rafters for the shelter. As the work progressed, a community of immigrants arrived from Chicago. The entire group raised the first of three walls.



After blessing a midday meal in French, English, and Spanish, we marveled at the new beauty of the old elm, and at how we worked together to transform dead wood into a space so full of life. As one said that day, "This place is so much more than a farm. It is where we all bring together what we have to build a better future."

You're Invited

We invite you to join our efforts to build a healthy local food system. We look forward to connecting you with one of our learning opportunities, whether you've never been to a farm before, you want to start your own farm, or you're looking for practical ways to improve your community.

By volunteering your time or making a gift, you'll help make a difference in the lives of thousands of people in our region. Call or visit us online to learn more about how you can get involved.

Learn. Grow. Connect.



Angelic Organics Learning Center
www.learn-grow-connect.org

main: 1547 Rockton Rd 6400 S Kimbark Ave
Caledonia IL 61011 Chicago IL 60637
815.389.8455 773.288.5462

learn@learn-grow-connect.org

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