Spark Projects
Every participant is invited to choose something they are curious to learn more about. Roots finds opportunities in their areas of interest and offers stipends to the youth to explore and ignite that spark of interest.

Strength-Based Leadership
Youth learn 5 personal strengths and how to use them, along with their leadership style, to propel them from where they are to where they want to be.

“ROOTS has helped me reach my goals and try new things while having the support to do so.”
— KH

“My favorite part was being able to learn not just kitchen skills, but life skills.”
— EF

Food is a great way to introduce a community to the best of itself.”
— Ruth Reichl

In a world that tells young people they CAN’T, Roots offers opportunities which let them show the world they CAN.
Food connects us.

This year, ROOTS youth realized the power of that concept, seized the opportunity to share their food with more people, and experienced the value (and enjoyment) they could create in the community by doing so.

2020’s adjustments = 2021’s new game plan.

Serving more communities.

Born out of a desire to continue to serve the community, as they had during COVID-related challenges last year, ROOTS youth expanded their salad service to others. They gained more experiences, more skills, and more fans from their creativity, leadership, and hard work.

13,764
Number of ROOTS salads prepared and distributed in 2021.

Back at the Ballpark.

Youth were excited to be back at Target Field serving their salads to Twins fans.

“I love telling youth about the great reactions their salads have been getting.”
— April Segard, Senior Director of Programs, Open Arms

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

In 2021 Youths’ Voice and Influence Grows.

11 young people were selected for significant leadership roles within ROOTS, becoming mentors and advisors to the program and participants.

Youth Advisory Council.
These young people advise ROOTS board of directors and staff on program content, connections and community pursuits. Experts from the University of Minnesota’s Leadership Studies program co-created, with the youth, the structure and framework for the Council.

Youth Trainers.
Four ROOTS alums received training from the University of Minnesota’s Youth Development faculty in how to co-facilitate our workshops. They will help lead 2022’s programming.

ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET

Youth create new products & find new ways to support each other.

Every ROOTS participant is invited to be curious, inventive and share their interests and what they see as needs in the “world.” Their ideas become the building blocks toward new ROOTS initiatives.

Salads were prepared weekly for:

- Regions Essential Workers
- Open Arms Clients
- Urban Research & Outreach Engagement Center
- Summit Academy
- Hospitality House
- Green Garden Bakery youth, families, staff
- Urban Roots youth, families, staff
- Summit Library staff
- Phylics Wheatly Center

2021 CHEF COACHES AND SALAD CREATIONS

Find all our salads and recipes at rootsforthehometeam.org

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Roots opportunities become pathways toward personal hopes and dreams.

Youth say 2021’s opportunities helped them:

- Gain experiences that taught them more about themselves.
- Think about their future and what steps they can take to get there.
- Discover they indeed are leaders, what their personal leadership style is and how to use those strengths for career pursuits.
- Gather resources and networks for their future.
- Grow.

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2021 IMPACT REPORT
April 2021
Solea Team 4 and Chef Coach Ann Ahmed test the concept of Cooks of Crocus Hill’s donated kitchen space.

Our program participants.
- 31% Latinx
- 24% Somali
- 17% Hmong
- 17% Black
- 3% White
- 7% Other

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Our program sponsors.

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