

# City of Lawrence Outside Agency Bi-annual Report 2016

Reports on activity should be submitted electronically to Danielle Buschkoetter, at [dbuschkoetter@lawrenceks.org](mailto:dbuschkoetter@lawrenceks.org). Reports on activities from January 2016 to June 2016 are due on July 15<sup>th</sup> 2016. Cumulative reports on activities from January 2016 through December 2016 are due on February 15<sup>th</sup> 2017.

## Agency Name:

### Reporting Period (please check one):

☐ January - June  
(deadline July 15)

☒ January – December  
(deadline February 15)

1. Give a brief narrative of the activities that were funded with City funds over the reporting period checked above.

From January, 2016-December, 2016, City funds have helped Sunrise Project with operating costs to accomplish many activities that have benefited the community:

Our Healthy Sprouts farm to preschool program focused 2016 cooking and gardening efforts on the newly added Little Nations Academic Center, Positive Bright Start, Ballard Community Services and Children's Learning Center, some of the lowest-income child care centers in Lawrence.

Food Rocket after school cooking and gardening club expanded from Cordley Elementary to include New York Elementary. We were also able to facilitate pop-up cooking experiences at Woodlawn and Sunset Hill Elementary Schools.

Lawrence Fruit Tree Project engaged many new participants at each Lawrence Community Orchard work day and through workshops on pruning, grafting and native plant identification.

Sunrise Project officially began facilitating Summer of Service (previously of United Way of Douglas County) and matched nearly 60 youth ages 12-18 with volunteer projects at nonprofit organizations throughout the community including Lawrence Community Shelter, Just Food, Hidden Valley Camp, Humane Society and many more. Youth have also shown great enthusiasm to work on other social issues throughout the year including street harassment and racial injustice.

Sunrise Project also partnered this year with Douglas County and the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department on a Food Plan Equity Project. Sunrise was subcontracted to hire seven "Community Coordinators" from diverse backgrounds and perspectives to gather input and stories about access to healthy, affordable and culturally appropriate food in Douglas County. The feedback they gathered is being incorporated into the County's stand-alone Food Plan.

2. Provide specific detail (and supportive documents, if needed) to demonstrate progress made toward your goals/objectives.

Sunrise Project's 2016 outcomes were reached in the following ways:

1. *At least 6 new community partners will be actively involved in the social change Sunrise seeks to support.* Sunrise Project partnered with Douglas County, Lawrence-Douglas County Housing Authority, Boys and Girls Club, Just Food, Humane Society, Ballard Community Center, and several Lawrence schools to name a few.
2. *75% of attendees will gain knowledge and 25% will take action on issues related to the intersection of food, the environment and social justice.* Our program evaluations were not fully developed in 2016 in order to gain this particular data. We are in the midst of developing a robust evaluation plan that will lead to more accurate data results in 2017.
3. *Families and individuals will report an increase in local, healthy food purchases and/or consumption following participation in the first year.* Participants reported trying new foods, learning new skills and increasing consumption of healthy food after participating in Sunrise Project programs.

In 2016, Sunrise Project engaged:

- 240 Healthy Sprouts children and families
- 360 Food Rocket elementary students
- 165 Sunrise youth
- 250 volunteers, visitors and workshop participants at Lawrence Community Orchard
- 230 community members through the Food Plan Equity Project
- And 250 others through cooking, gardening, volunteering, field trips and other activities.

In all, nearly 1,500 people were connected to good food, community and the environment. Participants learned new skills, tried new foods, met new people and became more engaged in the community.

### 3. How have you impacted the citizens of Lawrence?

Sunrise Project has impacted the health of Lawrence citizens by increasing culinary and agricultural skills, as well as building community. Evidence shows that people are healthier when they are more socially connected and civically engaged. Therefore, Sunrise Project not only provides opportunities for increased basic skills and access to healthy food, but also empowers citizens to become more engaged in the Lawrence community and create meaningful connections with one another.

### 4. What barriers, if any, have you encountered?

Most of the barriers Sunrise Project encounters are funding challenges. As a fairly new organization, it can be difficult to secure large grants for operating costs. Renovations at the Sunrise site have also taken longer than anticipated due to many challenges that often arise with construction projects. However, with the continued support of our local government, foundations, businesses and individual support, Sunrise Project continues to overcome barriers and succeed in its mission to connect people to good food, community and the environment.

### 5. Review the line-item budget you provided in your application. How much of your allocation has been spent?

Sunrise Project has spent the entire \$6,830 allocated by the City of Lawrence.