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FOR RELEASE: 12/17/2015

## **\*IMMEDIATE RELEASE\***

### **Year in Review: Capital Roots Concludes a Record-Breaking First Year at the Urban Grow Center** *Organization distributes 33 percent more fresh food*

**TROY, N.Y.** – Capital Roots, a 40-year-old food access non-profit headquartered in the city of Troy, closes out 2015 with a number of significant organizational milestones under its belt, including a 33 percent increase in fresh food distribution, a new program launch, record-breaking fundraisers, and a milestone for the organization’s foundational Community Gardens program.

The local non-profit spent its first year in its new headquarters at the Urban Grow Center (opened December, 3, 2014) at the corner of Jay and River Streets in Troy, offering expanded space to facilitate more efficient programming. In the organization’s Food Access programs alone, 33 percent more fresh produce left Capital Roots’ doors and made its way into food insecure neighborhoods across the Capital Region.

The organization celebrated the opening of its 50<sup>th</sup> community garden in late summer before kicking off its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration at its annual Autumn Evening in the Garden gala event in fall.

“This year has been a momentous year for Capital Roots, and the numbers show it,” said Amy Klein, Capital Roots’ Executive Director. “We are serving more people than ever before in the Capital Region and that can be attributed to the hard work and dedication of our staff, volunteers, and many community supporters. We anticipate those numbers growing even more as we enter 2016 and begin planning the expansion of programs and Phase II of the Urban Grow Center.”

#### **Capital Roots’ 2015 Highlights:**

- First full year in the Urban Grow Center, which encompasses a wealth of green technologies including solar panels, a porous pavement parking lot, green roofs, and storm water infrastructure
- Distributed 33 percent more fresh produce to food insecure neighborhoods than in 2014 through Food Access programs

- Collected 80,000 pounds of donated produce through the Squash Hunger program to feed hungry families
- Celebrated the opening of the 50<sup>th</sup> community garden
- Kicked off its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration
- Created the Healthy Streets program and created two new staff positions with the program launch
- Raised record-breaking numbers at the annual Garden Bowl, Spring Brunch, and Autumn Evening in the Garden events

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*Capital Roots is a 40-year-old nonprofit organization that nourishes healthy communities with more than 50 Community Gardens, The Veggie Mobile®, Healthy Stores, The Produce Project, Squash Hunger and more. Capital Roots is headquartered at The Urban Grow Center, a regional food hub focused on urban agriculture and produce distribution to four counties, enabling Capital Roots to triple our ability to deliver fresh food and services to underserved neighborhoods and low-income families. Learn more at [www.capitalroots.org](http://www.capitalroots.org).*

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