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PRESS RELEASE

Capital Roots Celebrates Local Chefs and Farms while Addressing Food Deserts at 14th Annual ‘Autumn Evening in the Garden’

TROY, NY – Capital Roots held their 14th annual ‘Autumn Evening in the Garden’ gala last week, pairing prominent local chefs with regional farms. The event was held on September 22 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Troy.

The local non-profit, which works to provide access to fresh food and green spaces for all residents of the Capital Region, hosted almost 400 people at the strolling supper this year. Together with regional corporate sponsors, attendees helped the organization raise more than \$97,000 – a record high. .

Proceeds from the event will also benefit the expansion of the Healthy Stores program, which places fridges stocked with fresh produce in convenience and corner stores found in food deserts across the Capital Region. With 15 locations refilled with produce weekly, the organization aims to expand to 25 new stores.

During the event guests enjoyed unique culinary samples from eighteen of the region’s top chefs and bakers. All dishes were created using seasonal ingredients donated by more than forty farmers and producers from our region’s food shed. Many of the farmers were also in attendance, allowing guests and chefs to talk directly with those who are growing our area’s food. Twelve beverage purveyors were also on-hand, serving samples of local wine, beer, spirits and coffee, while The Joe Sorrentino Trio set the mood for the evening with their music.

“This year’s event held a special meaning for us” said Amy Klein, the organization’s Chief Executive Officer. “We are celebrating the ten year anniversary of a program that, for many Capital Region residents, serves as the safest way to find fresh produce during the pandemic. But we are also celebrating the Chefs who had to shutter their restaurants and the farms that worked tirelessly to keep food on our shelves. And we are celebrating our staff, who worked on the front lines or from our office every day to ensure that there was never a lapse in fresh food for our communities. When food access was threatened the most, we worked our hardest.”

“Using local produce is important for so many reasons” said Chef Luca Brunelle, “it helps keep money in our community and it all comes back around. At Indian Ladder Farms I am lucky to be able to go out and see what is fresh and use that. Very few people have that opportunity, but (Capital Roots) gives everyone a chance to at least try. Whether it’s through a Community Garden or just one of these Healthy Store fridges.”

Photos from the evening, by Liz Lajeunesse Photography, can be found here: https://bit.ly/AE21_Photo

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Capital Roots is a 46-year-old nonprofit organization that nourishes healthy communities with more than 55 Community Gardens, the Veggie Mobile®, Healthy Stores, 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 five 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.

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