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\* PRESS RELEASE \*

## **Capital Roots Unveils Good Food Market, Incubator Kitchen, and Expanded Food Hub in Grand Opening Celebration**

### *Nonprofit Growth Demonstrates Commitment to Sustainable Food Access and Entrepreneurship*

(Troy, N.Y.) – [Capital Roots](#), a leading non-profit organization dedicated to promoting healthy food access and sustainable agriculture, celebrated the grand opening of its Good Food Market, Incubator Kitchen and Expanded Food Hub on Tuesday, December 19<sup>th</sup>. This transformative space is set to make a significant impact on nutritious food access for the greater Capital Region, offer key tools for entrepreneurs to develop their food based business and provide Troy with an affordable, top quality local food market place.

Amy Klein, CEO of Capital Roots, said “Today we celebrate the culmination of The Urban Grow Center, a project twenty years in the making. With the grand opening of our Good Food Market, Incubator kitchen, and Expanded Food Hub, we’re not just providing nourishment; we’re investing in the health and well-being of our community. We’re lifting up entrepreneurs by providing affordable opportunity and stepping stones for their success. We’re creating a bridge between the local farm economy and our tables. Now, more than ever, the need for affordable fresh food access in our community is undeniable. In this new space, we’re not just opening doors; we’re unlocking possibilities and sowing the seeds for a healthier, more vibrant future together.”

Congressman Paul Tonko said, “I’m thrilled today to celebrate the opening of the Capital Roots’ Urban Grow Center — a vital initiative that will enhance access to nutritious food for underserved communities and open up new markets for our regional farmers. I was proud to secure \$750,000 in federal funding for this transformative project through the Community Project Funding process, and I thank all those at Capital Roots and across our communities whose hard work and dedication made this day possible. Together, we are cultivating a healthier and more sustainable future for our Capital Region.”

The Good Food Market, sponsored by CDPHP, is a vibrant and welcoming retail space where community members can access a diverse array of fresh, locally sourced produce, groceries, and artisanal products. The market supports a two tier pricing structure, aimed to make nutritious food options more accessible and affordable for everyone in the Capital Region.

“CDPHP has long collaborated with Capital Roots because we know firsthand that access to fresh, healthy foods and better health outcomes are inextricably linked,” said John D. Bennett, MD, president and CEO of CDPHP. “Sponsorship of The Good Food Market is yet another example of our commitment to a healthier, more vibrant community. I applaud the Capital Roots staff for their unwavering commitment to ensuring sustainably sourced food is available to all.”

The Incubator Kitchen is designed to support local food entrepreneurs and culinary innovators. Equipped with state-of-the-art facilities, the kitchen will provide a collaborative environment for small businesses to develop, produce, and scale their products. Incubator Kitchen entrepreneurs are provided essential business training by the Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region, creating a path for success, fostering innovation, and supporting their economic growth.

“The Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region, Inc. is thrilled to continue our collaboration with Capital Roots by providing training and technical assistance, workshops, and business classes to entrepreneurs in their new incubator kitchen.” said Linda MacFarlane, Executive Director.

The Expanded Food Hub is a central hub for distributing fresh, locally grown produce to community partners, including schools, healthcare facilities, and social service organizations. This expansion will enhance Capital Roots' ability to connect local farmers with those in need, fostering a healthier and more sustainable community.

New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets Commissioner Richard A. Ball said, “One of our top priorities at the Department is increasing food security in our communities and developing a strong food supply chain right here at home. Capital Roots has long been an instrumental partner in this shared mission, helping ensure all New Yorkers have access to the nutritious, local foods that keep them healthy and make them feel good. I want to congratulate Capital Roots on this grand opening that will help them expand their impact on the farmers they support and the families they help feed, and look forward to many more years of collaboration and success.”

The grand opening celebration brought together hundreds of supporters, volunteers, and staff for a ribbon-cutting ceremony, guided tours of the facilities, and opportunities to meet local food entrepreneurs.

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**About Capital Roots.** Capital Roots is a 48-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 deliver local food and services to underserved neighborhoods and low-income families. Learn more at [www.capitalroots.org](http://www.capitalroots.org).