

Hydroponic farm providing fresh, healthy hyper-local food year-round



Become a partner for the Rotary District Grant solar panel and rainwater catchment project for hydroponic Freight Farm in North Minneapolis

The need

Minnesota's economy was founded on food. Yet today 1 in 8 children in our state struggle with hunger. 1 in 6 Minnesotans don't know where their next meal will come from. What's behind this disconnection? While food is plentiful in our state, gaps in income and access mean it's not getting where it's needed most — especially in low-income areas and communities of color.

The vision

Pillsbury United Communities opened North Market in North Minneapolis in 2018. The groundbreaking wellness center and grocery store is nurturing healthier lives and a healthier economy in North Minneapolis. They have purchased and installed a hydroponic Freight Farm, a redesigned cargo container, to produce fresh, healthy hyper-local food year-round to provide healthy food at affordable prices. Their vision is to make the Freight Farm environmentally and economically sustainable by installing solar panels to take it off the grid, and a water catchment system to provide water for the Freight Farm and to divert the nutrient rich gray water to the community gardens.



The opportunity

Partner with the Twin Cities Rotary EcoClub on a Rotary District Grant to provide funding for purchase and installation of solar panels and water catchment on the Freight Farm.

- Provide fresh, healthy hyper-local food to an area of Minneapolis that has the least amount of access to fresh healthy food
- Produce as much food year-round in 320 sq. ft. cargo container as could be produced seasonally on 1.5 acres
- This project will produce 22% of the annual electricity requirements of the Freight Farm, but the long-term goal is to make the Freight Farm 100% environmentally sustainable
- Water will come from rainwater catchment instead of City of Minneapolis water supply
- Research and design by University of St. Thomas engineering student led senior design project will be a significant in-kind contribution

Rotary District grant matching funds – Each \$1 your club contributes will be matched with \$2 (\$500 minimum)

With a **project budget** of \$22K and potential grant of up to \$15K, the fundraising goal is \$7K

We are currently seeking pledges, as contribution payment will take place after District Grant committee approval

To make your pledge: Email your pledge to Steve Solbrack at steve@solbrack.com

