

The Scoop!

The dog days of Summer are upon us, and what a great time to look back at all of the wonderful things that happened at Roberti Community House over the Summer months.

Summertime Cooking and Gardening

At RCH, we continued to nurture our partnerships with local farmers. These kind gardeners donated seedlings and produce, which allowed us to distribute fresh vegetables to families in need two to three times a week. Special thanks go to our partners at Liberty Prairie Wind Family Farms, Prairie Farm Corp, Sandbox Organics, Radical Root, Chicago Botanic Garden Windy City Harvest Youth Farm, and—a new partner this year—Jefferson Middle School.



Each week, we highlighted a different vegetable grown and harvested from the gardens. In all our adult and child cooking classes, we placed emphasis on healthy cooking and eating. These classes included our Monday lunch group, the Junior Chefs, and the Master Chefs, as well as our Junior Green Youth Farm programs.

We provided 125 meals of delicious garden-to-table cuisine each week!



Outdoor Summer Fun and Fitness

It wouldn't be summer if we didn't take the time to enjoy the great outdoors in our local area! We attended weekly yoga classes, nature walks, outdoor meditation and *Zumba* on the beach.

Meet Maryclaret Ndubuisi-Obi



Maryclaret Ndubuisi-Obi is a Masters student in the DePaul University Nursing Program. She launched *Cuidate!*, a whole-health initiative with the goal to increase active participation in physical activity, meditation, and overall wellness. This program has empowered community members through access

to and utilization of local resources to promote health and well being. Thanks to the fortunate support and fellowship of The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Program, Maryclaret chose RCH as her site mentorship. Thank you, Maryclaret!



Maryclaret's efforts created activities that families could participate in together. These activities have been so well enjoyed that we have extended them to Saturdays.

RCH Open House

On August 2, we held an open house at RCH. We invited our friends and

neighbors to come and meet our Junior Green Youth farm students and see what RCH has to offer. There were over 90 attendees, including family and friends, neighbors, community members, volunteers and representatives from local schools and police departments. Waukegan Mayor Sam Cunningham was able to join us for this very special event, and we were so honored to have him.

The kids involved in our programs were able to share about what they learned while growing, tasting and cooking delicious food from our gardens. It was a fantastic day for all who attended.



Roberti Culinary Pathway Training Center Update

We are making great progress on our new culinary training center. The house, which is only a quick walk from RCH, is being transformed before our eyes into a state-of-the-art commercial-grade kitchen and training facility. The renovation of the basic structure inside the house is finished, including all of the extra safety features that are required for a commercial-grade kitchen. We are so excited to have installed the commercial cooking hood and vent system, as well as the oven and cook top.



We are planning to add other finishes and appliances over the coming weeks

and into the Fall. Also in the works are two fundraisers for the project. We welcome any and all donations to help us obtain all the equipment, appliances, and training personnel. With your help, we hope to launch our training program in the coming months.

The Roberti Culinary Pathway will be a wonderful enhancement to the RCH mission through its ability to nourish the community and have a positive impact on both the individual training candidates and the community as a whole. To learn how to contribute to this initiative, and for other information about The Roberti Culinary Pathway, please visit:

RobertiCulinaryPathway.org

Looking Forward to Fall at RCH

During the last days of Summer, we are taking the time to get RCH ready for our Fall programs. Our Fall schedule will be starting up on September 5, the Tuesday after Labor Day. Please watch for details regarding our Fall Harvest Party and Movie Night on Friday September 22. This is an event to be enjoyed by families together, with activities for both kids and adults.

Wish list

Our needs are many and your assistance is always appreciated. If you are able to donate one or more of the below items, or if you have any questions about our wish list, please contact us at roberticommunityhouse@gmail.com.

- Vacuum cleaner
- New sewing machines (2)
- [Cricut Explore Air™](#) cutting machine for projects and crafts

Things we always need

- Printer ink & paper
- Fabric
- Gift cards to Walmart, Jewel, Sam's Club, Costco, and Home Depot

We appreciate your continued interest and support! Please consider [donating](#).

Thank you!