

# JUST ONE THING

**Title:** Lil' Free Farmstands

**Company/Organization:** Grow Nashua

**Type of Organization:** Nonprofit

**Number of Employees:** <100

**Category:** Nonprofit

**Challenge or Opportunity:** Our organization provides over 160 community gardens spread throughout 7 different food insecure neighborhoods. However, the gardens can only produce so much for the families that we serve. They needed more than what could be produced. We also divert food waste. We recognized that backyard gardeners and farmers toss a lot of surplus fresh vegetables away. Neighbors also are looking for ways to help those in need, but don't always have an easy way to do so.

**Approach or Solution:** We created an innovative program called the Lil' Free Farmstand where fresh veggies are collected from local gardeners and farmers that grow/shop/donate their produce daily. GN delivers 7 days a week to neighborhoods that are in food deserts. Bi-lingual farmstand manager that distributes food as well as other useful information on local financial, heating, rental, childcare, tax services, etc. We also offer other free resources like shoes, turkeys, and Patagonia winter coats!

**Impact:** Outputs yearly: [A] 2,700+ residents receive veggies all summer long; [B] Farmstand gives 25,000 measured pounds of excess produce to neighbors; [C] Excess produce diverted from landfill; [D] Families cook/consume produce.

Community mindset is shifting from scarcity to abundance. Outlet provided for excess veggies to be shared and diverted from landfill. New members connect, contribute, and actively make a difference and are offered additional opportunities to become active volunteers.