

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Refugee Farmers to Open Their Fields for Public Tours *Open House and Transplant Sale Set for Saturday, May 6*

Community members will have an opportunity to get an inside look at a unique farmer training program this weekend, while making connections with refugees from several different countries.

The New Roots for Refugees program will host an open house and transplant sale from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, May 6. Sixteen farmers from Burma, Bhutan and the Democratic Republic of Congo will showcase their thriving vegetable fields at Juniper Gardens Training Farm, 100 Richmond, Kansas City, Kansas. Along with giving tours, the farmers will be selling a variety of vegetable transplants (starter plants).

Founded in 2009, New Roots for Refugees is a four-year program that provides refugee farmers with an opportunity to build on their strengths and experiences in the field of farming. From planting seeds to harvesting, the farmers learn how to manage a successful farm plot and sell their vegetables at local markets, all the while becoming acclimated to the local culture and learning English. The program is co-sponsored by Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas and Cultivate Kansas City.

Saturday is also the monthly “Work the Farm Day” at Juniper Gardens where community volunteers come to be a “farmhand” for the day – weeding, harvesting and performing a number of other tasks. Approximately 20 volunteers are signed up to take part.

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