

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Local Women Receives Young Leaders Grants**

Monica Caldwell has been awarded a Ron Griffith Young Leaders Fund grant. Caldwell, a beginning farmer in the Northfield area, participated in Annie's Project with the help of a RGYLF grant. Annie's Project is an educational program dedicated to strengthening women's roles in the modern farm enterprise. Currently, classes are being taught in 19 states. Through six educational sessions, Annie's Project offers training to women farmers in the area of farm management, financial planning, and marketing. It fosters problem solving, record keeping, decision-making skills, and networking with farm women.



Caldwell brings to Northfield experience as an educator, manager, and community builder. She has been an environmental educator at Acadia National Park in Bar Harbor, ME and a program manager at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, Illinois. She is currently participating in the Land Stewardship Project's Farm Beginnings Program and plans to operate a small, local, organic farm in the Northfield area. She also looks forward to using her skills "to bring students out to the farm for on-farm education opportunities". In addition, she hopes to collaborate with the YMCA's Ron Griffith Young Leaders Fund and Just Food Co-op in creating "outreach programs focused on the healthy foods, the environment, and nutrition."