

Jennifer Nelson Awarded a Ron Griffith Young Leaders Fund Grant

Jennifer Nelson has been awarded an RGYLF grant that enabled her to attend the MOSES Organic Farming Conference held in Madison, Wisconsin in March 2010. A recent arrival in Northfield, Nelson brings to the community a spectrum of experience that includes teaching in Ecuador, managing the Rochester Downtown Farmers Market, and working for the YMCA. As a licensed elementary and middle school teacher with a love of organic food, Nelson feels very fortunate in being able to work for the Gardens of Eagan and their Organic Field School.



In moving to Northfield, Nelson says, “I look forward to engaging with the Northfield community through my role with Gardens of Eagan, as well as fostering possible collaborations with the Northfield School District, Just Food Co-op and Northfield Area Family YMCA.”

To this end, Nelson valued the opportunity to attend workshops at the Organic Food Conference on “Organic and Local Foods Form the Backbone of Community Economic Development”, “Understanding and Enhancing Soil Organic Matter”, “Grant Writing and Applications”, and “CSA Logistics”. In looking back on her conference experience, Nelson said, “This conference contributed to what I consider my life work. I love real food, farming and teaching. What I learned at the conference will benefit me in all my endeavors.” Nelson is passionate in her belief that “local, organic food production and distribution is integral to strong community-building.”

The Ron Griffith Young Leaders Fund (<http://northfieldymca.org/ron-griffith>), formed through a partnership between the YMCA and Just Food Co-op, welcomes grant applications from young adult leaders actively involved in local environmental initiatives, health food and nutrition, sustainable agriculture, and community building.