

# NEW BRITAIN ROOTS

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## 2019 Summer City Growers Wrap Up

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New Britain Roots City Growers Youth Employees Stella (Left) and Imani (Right) pictured late summer at New Britain High School. Photo Taken by Joey Listro.

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My first thought when I got this job was, "Oh, at least I'm going to earn some money this summer." Not knowing the true experience that awaited me. As a person who knows very little about plants, vegetables, and even nutrition, I think of it as being bestowed the knowledge about nature. Helping people get healthy foods, planting organic crops, and educating others about nutrition - especially young kids - were the best moments of my summer. It helped me give back to my community latently, which encourages me more about life and how people are not always going to recognize every action I take.

Also, going into this job meant teamwork with unfamiliar people. Being someone who is very shy especially when it comes to performing with others, before going

My experience working at New Britain Roots has been filled with so much growth, not only the plants but also within myself. I am a City Grower employee at New Britain Roots through HRA. At orientation they gave us a paper with at least 30 different jobs on it that were looking to hire summer youth employees. There were so many! I didn't know what to choose from until I saw the words roots in capital letters. Using intuition, I naturally assumed the job had to do with plants - an aspect of life I had long admired since childhood. I immediately choose ROOTS. The first day I started was scary. I did not know what to expect. I literally and figuratively walked into a new experience. A choice I will never regret nor forget.

The time I have spent at ROOTS planting and harvesting has been so

into this job, I had concluded about all the opposing issues that could make me unsatisfied. But, with all the people I met, I was able to ignore all the dissenting atmosphere and focus more on how to contribute to the community and my work place.

So yeah, this summer was very relishing and very comfortable. I had people who helped me work through mostly all my difficulties and with this experience, I can conclude, I am ready to share my knowledge and experience I have in farming with the world.

- Stella

enriching. Being exposed to and understanding how the food we buy so easily at the grocery store is grown has given me a greater appreciation for the food we eat. While employed at ROOTS, I had the opportunity to work in their summer school garden program, teaching children between the ages of five and six about agriculture. Being with children and watching them learn and laugh about food that they love has given me such joy. Working with wonderful coworkers and managers that seek to help the community get closer to nature has helped me to understand just how wonderful kindness really is. There is so much that has happened this summer that I can't begin to write about it all, but if I could I would sum it up in four words: THE BEST SUMMER EVER!!!!

-Imani

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**Be sure to stop by and say  
"Hello" to Mobile Market Manager  
Nic and his City Growers team!**

**Wednesday**  
Downtown Farmers Market  
@Central Park  
11 am - 2 pm

**Monday**

Community Health Center  
@85 Lafayette Street  
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Walnut Hill Park  
Summer Concert Series  
(through August 26)  
5 pm - 8 pm

**Tuesday**

Ribicoff Apartments  
@67 Martin Luther King Drive  
12:30 pm - 2:30 pm

Gaffney Elementary School  
@322 Slater Road  
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

We accept Cash, Credit, Bee Bucks,  
EBT, WIC (Farmers Market Nutrition  
Program Voucher)

Malikowski Circle  
@58 Scarlet Drive  
3:30 pm - 5:30 pm

**Thursday**

HRA Head Start  
@180 Clinton Drive  
3 pm - 5 pm

Museum of American Art  
@Lexington Street  
(through August 29th)  
6 pm - 8 pm

**Friday**

Slade and Lincoln Schools  
@183 Steele Street  
3 pm - 6 pm

SHOP with SNAP/EBT  
Get \$1 for \$1 match in FREE  
fruits & vegetables!

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