

22-23

CORNERSTONE

community innovation partnership





ABOUT FOODCHAIN

FoodChain works to **connect the Lexington community to fresh food** and cultivate more active participation in the local food system. This is accomplished through community outreach including tours, kitchen programming and activities on FoodChain's aquaponics farm. The organization believes that it is through community that we can build a more just, equitable and sustainable food system for all.

40,800+

Pounds of local
produced by
FoodChain operations

665,797

nourishing meals
provided since
March 2020



PARTNERSHIP OUTCOMES

1 vertical aquaponics system

In partnership with The Food Connection and a grant from the UK Student Sustainability Council, FoodChain built their first mobile, vertical aquaponics system. The system was designed entirely by FoodChain staff, and then **built in collaboration with UK students and faculty**. Since then, the system has been featured in presentations to students, plants have gone out to student's dorm rooms, the fish names were awarded through a democratic process, and produce from this system was used in a meal at the Food Connection during the Executive Director's presentation. At the end of this year the system will stay at UK and move to its forever home with The Food Connection.





2

food system education

Throughout the partnership, FoodChain worked with **4 different classes**. They created student volunteering opportunities including feeding the fish, checking water quality, and caring for the plants.

In total **about 100 students checked on the system**, but countless more interacted with it just from exposure in the space- the fish name voting was especially popular! In total, it is estimated that FoodChain worked with **10 professors over the partnership**.

100

the # of students who volunteered to work on the system

4

the # of classes FoodChain worked with over 2 semesters

10

the estimated # of professors FoodChain worked with

This 12-month long partnership is intended to help foster the Cornerstone's **vision of innovation and entrepreneurship through building connection between the community and the university.**

The Cornerstone building serves as the gateway to an emerging innovation district that will further connect the university with the city of Lexington. It is designed to foster a wide range of idea sharing, event hosting and programmatic opportunities around the concepts of innovation, creativity, technology, entrepreneurship and equitable economic development.

For information on applying, contact **ashleycastorena@uky.edu**

