



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Delaware's first urban farm takes root in northeast Wilmington

Grand opening of on-site farm market, July 2

WILMINGTON – The Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH) is pleased to announce the grand opening of a new farm market on the corner of 12th & Brandywine in northeast Wilmington. Much of the produce for sale is being grown on-site by neighborhood residents and a group of teenagers from Christiana Care's Camp FRESH program.

Delaware's first urban farm is a quarter-acre space composed of eight contiguous empty lots. Raised beds ensure that the harvest is growing in the best quality soil, and make for easier plant care. A new fence protects the garden, and will eventually support espaliered fruit trees, herbs and cut flowers.

On Thursday, July 2, the grand opening and community block party will run from 12:00 – 4:00 PM. Festivities will include a BBQ and cooking demonstrations by the Camp FRESH teenagers. The farm market will subsequently be open every Monday and Thursday from 11:30 – 4:30, serving walk-up customers from the immediate neighborhood as well as drive-by traffic on 12th Street. Tours of the farm are available upon request.

The two aspects of this project that differentiate it from more traditional community gardens are the on-site farm stand and the involvement of Camp FRESH, an annual program sponsored by Christiana Care that empowers Wilmington's young people to become advocates for good nutrition. This year 36 students from seven high schools are learning how to grow fresh produce as well as building leadership, business management and healthy lifestyle skills. The Camp FRESH program runs from June 15 - Aug. 14.

The farm was established this spring by the Wilmington Urban Farm Coalition, a diverse group of community members, local farmers, non-profit leaders, and government officials working together to address the lack of access to fresh healthy foods in some urban communities. In addition to DCH and Christiana Care, organizational partners in the coalition include Habitat for Humanity, DNREC – Resource Conservation & Development, Delaware Department of Agriculture, 11th Street Bridge Civic Association, the Challenge Program and the City of Wilmington. University of Delaware students, Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners have also been helping with the farm.

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The **Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH)** cultivates greener communities by inspiring appreciation and improvement of the environment through horticulture, education and conservation. Founded in 1977, the Center's site in Wilmington, Delaware includes a 1.5 acre educational demonstration garden, a 3,000 volume lending library, an art gallery, a lecture hall and a greenhouse. DCH supports 16 active community gardens throughout the city of Wilmington; organizes park improvement projects, beautifies Delaware's roadsides with native vegetation; maintains the landscaping of many urban gateways, corridors, and streetscapes; leads regional conservation projects to enhance Delaware's urban forest; and provides educational programs for children, teens, and adults. For more information, visit www.dehort.org