

ALTERNATIVE SPRING BREAK

# Food Justice with Grow Ohio Valley



( A FEW OF MANY ) **PROJECTS**

1. AmeriCorps house renovation
2. Activist art making
3. Clothing donation sorting
4. Sustainable urban farming
5. Community outreach

## OUR PARTNER ORGANIZATION



**Grow Ohio Valley** is an organization based in a food desert in Wheeling, WV. This community also has a high number of people experiencing homelessness. Grow OV aims to increase access to fresh and affordable produce by exploring methods of urban farming. Many other organizations in Wheeling also work together to address the closely intertwined issues of homelessness, poverty, and food access, including:

**House of Hagar:** a Catholic Worker House that opens its doors to all friends in the community for a meal, hot shower, or place to gather

**Winter Freeze Shelter:** offering a place for people to sleep during the coldest months of winter

**Project HOPE:** a medical street team that provides skilled services to people who may not have or otherwise seek access to healthcare

**Free Store:** a store run on donations and volunteers that “sells” clothes, bedsheets, etc. (for free) to anyone who may need them

### FOOD DESERT *(noun)*

To qualify as a “low-access community,” at least 500 people and/or at least 33 percent of the census tract's population must reside more than one mile from a supermarket or large grocery store (for rural census tracts, the distance is more than 10 miles). (USDA)

*Often intersecting with: health issues (diabetes, addiction, etc.), limited access to healthcare/human services, limited access to transportation, poverty/homelessness, ...*



**Food justice is environmental justice is social justice.**

The lack of access to high-quality, fresh, and healthy food is both a cause and a symptom of the systemic inequalities within our society.