"To cultivate collective action for an economically sustainable, socially equitable, and environmentally sound local food system."

For Immediate Release

Memphis Tilth Grows 2016 Partnership with St. Jude Children's Research Hospital

By Melissa Dison, Memphis Tilth Operations Manager
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Memphis, TN – Memphis Tilth is featured in St. Jude Children's Research Hospital's Summer 2017 *Promise* magazine issue, highlighting Tilth's partnership with the hospital to manage their garden and serve as a source of local food.

Beginning last August, Memphis Tilth entered into a multi-year contract with St. Jude to increase the hospital's sustainability efforts. St. Jude was one of the first hospitals in the United States to create a garden dedicated to growing vegetables and herbs for consumption by patients, families, staff, and visitors. Memphis Tilth is partnering with St. Jude to meet its local food sourcing goals, harvesting over 3,000 lbs. of food from the garden last year, and over 5,000 lbs. of food by the end of 2017.

The St. Jude Garden consists of 74 raised beds, fruits trees, and bees, that will soon produce honey. Most of the produce grown in the garden is transported to the hospital's cafeteria, Kay Kafe. To further increase local procurement at the hospital, St. Jude also purchases local meat and produce from Memphis Tilth's Bring It Food Hub program, which aggregates fresh food from three dozen local farms within a 150-mile radius from St. Jude's campus.

In addition to increasing local food availability in the cafeteria, Memphis Tilth coordinates the St. Jude Farmers Market, a weekly on-campus resource for patients, families, and staff. The first farmers market this year on April 14, 2017 drew over 800 attendees from St. Jude. Produce from the St. Jude Garden and weekly subscriptions from Bring It Food Hub are sold at the farmers market each week. Members of St. Jude are also invited to volunteer and enjoy the garden. Hundreds of volunteer hours have already been dedicated to the St. Jude Garden, making it not just a space for food, but an energizing and restorative place for hospital employees and families to cherish.

To read the complete article from *Promise*, visit https://www.stjude.org/about-st-jude/stories/promise-magazine/summer-2017/the-st-jude-garden-of-eatin.html.

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