



Seeds of Independence:

From Garden to Justice: Creating Inclusive Opportunities for Every Seed to Thrive.

by

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THE NEED FOR TRULY INCLUSIVE PROGRAMS

Did you know?

- **65%** of families of children with **disabilities** experience social **isolation**.

- **Inspired by Personal Experience:** Seeds of Independence was born from firsthand experiences with programs that fail to fully accommodate neurodivergent children's needs.
- **Exclusion from Traditional Programs:** My nonverbal son, Andrew, was removed from the Wild Discoveries program at the Bronx Zoo, highlighting the lack of adequate support in existing programs.



Seeds of Independence

The Need

Families with **high needs** children often **lack access** to practical, **sensory-friendly** programs.

Our Mission

To create **sensory-friendly, inclusive** spaces where children with **higher needs** can build life skills, confidence, and empowerment while promoting **food justice**.

The Solution

Seeds of Independence offers a gardening and entrepreneurship program tailored to **children with disabilities**, integrating **sensory-friendly** gardening, hands-on crafts, and business skills.



PILOT EVENT- NOV 2, 2024



"It seems like every company claims they accept neurodivergent children, but they're not trained or experienced with actually handling special needs children hands-on."



OUR VOLUNTEERS



SEEDS OF INDEPENDENCE GARDENING CLUB

Join us in cultivating a brighter future! Our sensory-friendly gardening club teaches children with disabilities to grow produce, create art, and develop entrepreneurial skills. Through hands-on activities, we foster independence, community, and sustainability. Learn, grow, and thrive with us!

REGISTER NOW →

<https://forms.gle/Z19SBKjmtJk5dX2h7>



VOLUNTEER →

<https://forms.gle/iCToE4cc76ZvXHih6>



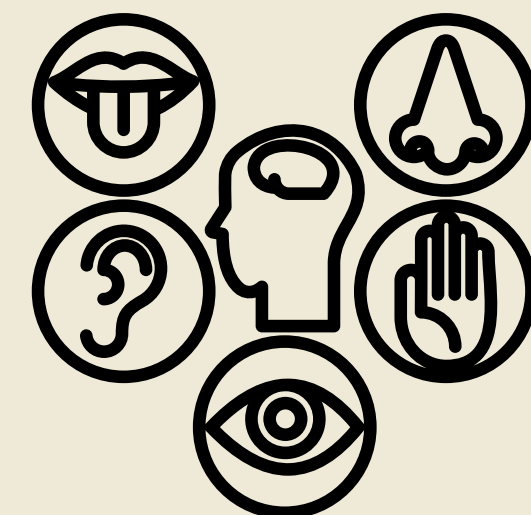
Studies show that structured,
hands-on activities benefit
80% of children with autism.



Product Overview

Seeds of Independence combines gardening, arts, and entrepreneurial workshops in a **sensory-friendly** setting to **empower** neurodivergent children and promote **food justice**.

Children learn to grow produce, create crafts, and **develop skills** in product sales, building **confidence** and **independence**.



Minimum Viable Product



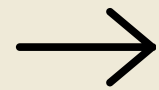
Our Minimum Viable Product (MVP) includes community gardening sessions, crafting workshops, and an art exhibition.

Our pilot session successfully launched in the Bronx. The next step is a 6 month program in the spring consisting of three monthly sessions: two for gardening and skill-building and one for marketplace activities. Our goal is to serve 20 children. During the off-season, events are held indoors and there is an increased focus on fundraising.



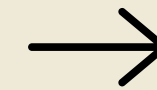
Key Program Features

Empowering Children Through Sustainability and Entrepreneurship



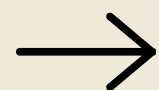
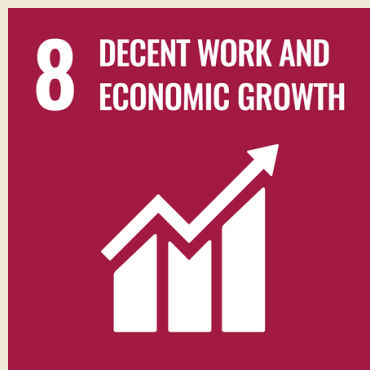
Accessibility

Adaptive gardening tools and raised accessible garden beds.



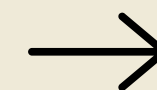
Sensory Friendly

Indoor and outdoor sensory spaces



Skill Building

Gardening, arts and crafts, entrepreneurship.



Community

Sensory-friendly community gardens, promoting food security and fostering inclusive, sustainable spaces.

Seeds of Independence

Impact on Families

Our program strengthens family wellbeing by providing **sensory-friendly spaces and community** support.

Current Development Stage

Currently piloting sessions in the Bronx with support from a CitizensNYC grant. Looking to partner with local organizations to expand program.

Vision for the Future

To establish Seeds of Independence **citywide**, creating **sensory-friendly environments** in multiple neighborhoods where every child, regardless of ability, can **thrive**.

Use of Funds

Impact: This funding will allow us to serve 20 children, creating a sensory-friendly, inclusive space where they can gain confidence, life skills, and independence.



Building Our Website (\$2,000)

Develop an interactive platform for program updates, product sales, and parent engagement.



Purchasing Sensory Materials and Tools (\$3,000)

Invest in adaptive gardening tools, sensory-friendly supplies, accessible garden beds, and calming materials to ensure inclusivity.



Marketing and Outreach (\$2,000)

Promote the program through flyers, social media, and community outreach to connect with more families.



Six Month Program and Beyond (\$3,000)

Gardening supplies, craft materials, and operational needs for workshops and markets. Expanding to to other community gardens.

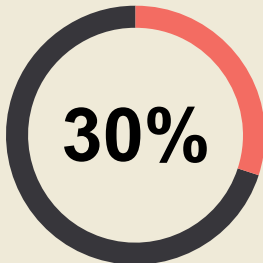
SEEDS OF INDEPENDENCE - 5-YEAR VISION

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
• Launch Seeds of Independence and serve 20 children in sensory-friendly spaces. • Host monthly farmers' markets for children to sell crafts and produce. • Develop the website and introduce subscription boxes for families.	• Expand the program to other gardens. • Secure partnerships with local schools for after-school programs. • Secure partnerships with local business and organizations.	• Scale subscription boxes to reach 200+ families monthly. • Add vocational training and advanced entrepreneurship sessions. • Advocate for community policies supporting neurodivergent children.	• Acquire or lease a permanent facility to host year-round events and markets. • Expand the marketplace to serve multiple locations citywide. • Begin replicating the model in other NYC boroughs.	• Operate a fully self-sustaining program with diversified revenue streams. • Establish Seeds of Independence as a leader in inclusive, sensory-friendly initiatives citywide.



SUSTAINABLE INCOME STREAMS

INCOME STREAMS

Grants and Donations	Apply for local, state, and federal grants aimed at supporting low-income families, neurodivergent children, and inclusive programs. Run fundraising campaigns targeting individual donors and local companies who align with your mission.	
Subscription Boxes	Launch sensory-friendly monthly activity boxes for families. Goal: Grow from 20 subscriptions in Year 1 to 200+ in Year 5.	
Community Marketplace and Events	Host monthly farmer's marketplace where children and their families can sell their creations (majority of income goes to kids). Partner with local farmers, who pay a participation fee for a spot at each market, creating a consistent revenue stream. Host indoor events and art auctions during off-season.	
Merchandising	Develop and sell branded items (e.g., tote bags, t-shirts, gardening tools) to raise awareness and funds.	



Thank You!

Join us for our next event on 12/14!