

Victory Garden Initiative: Michelle Dobbs named new Executive Director

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MILWAUKEE-The Board of Directors of Victory Garden Initiative is proud to announce the appointment of Michelle Dobbs as the new Executive Director.

Victory Garden Initiative (VGI) is a Milwaukee nonprofit that works to build communities that grow their own food to create a community-led, socially just, environmentally sustainable, nutritious food system for all.

Dobbs replaces Interim Co-Executive Directors, Ann Brummitt and Christine Kuhn. She received a Bachelor of Science in Communications from Howard University. In addition to her work in nonprofits, she is also a published author.

“It is with great pleasure that we welcome Michelle to the VGI family as she brings an extraordinary proven track record of success. Michelle is committed to our mission, passionate about making a difference in the Harambee neighborhood, a dedicated leader plus a deep thinker, and a person who will get things done! Just the formula we need to support our team, community, and partners as we continue to grow into the future.” said Susie Ralston, Chair of the Board of Directors.

Dobbs stated, “At my first conversation with VGI, I decided that these were people I wanted to be around. This was an organization with endless potential; bountiful resources held dearly by a dedicated group of talented people. It’s a dream come true! Everything about this role matches things I am passionate about: community building, agriculture, foodways, and cultural traditions. Heaven. Our neighbors in Harambee are slowly embracing me and I hope to meet more at the farm and around Milwaukee.”

About Victory Garden Initiative

Victory Garden Initiative is a Milwaukee-based nonprofit that works to build communities that grow their own food to create a community-led, socially just, environmentally sustainable, nutritious food system for all.

Since 2009, the organization has built over 5,000 raised gardens across Milwaukee through its flagship program, the Great Milwaukee Victory Garden BLITZ. These gardens bring much-needed infrastructure for growing food into the urban environment. Paired with numerous youth and adult education programs, community leadership building activities, and its own 1.5-acre urban farm and community kitchen space, VGI works to address food insecurity and injustice from many angles.

VGI has also worked to train other communities through its Blitz Your Town program, which has brought this garden building event to Green Bay, Wisconsin, Berea, Kentucky, and Butte County California who have built over 1400 gardens collectively.