

"Rooted in Hope" Since 2004
 Eco-Justice Center
 7133 Michna Road
 Racine, Wisconsin 53402

GROUNDS OPEN DAILY
8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



GIVING TUESDAY Help Eco-J Build a Solar Pergola

The Tuesday after Thanksgiving is Giving Tuesday, a global generosity movement aimed to empower people to transform their own communities. This year your donation will help Eco-J build a solar-powered electric vehicle (EV) charging station!

The solar pergola will provide a new outdoor education meeting space for field trips as well as reducing our reliance on non-renewable energy. Visit ecojusticecenter.org/solar or scan the QR code to donate!



Donate today!

Win an Eco-J Christmas Wreath!

Give a financial donation by Dec. 12th and be entered into a drawing for a chance to win a Christmas wreath, customized with Eco-J trimmings!

Printed on recycled paper with soy ink

RACINE DOMINICAN MISSION PARTNER
"ROOTED IN HOPE"
 Eco-Justice Center
 WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER



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Scan to Donate

 THANK YOU!

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Growing Healthy

The Growing Healthy program is a nutrition education program, serving all of the Racine Unified School District's first-graders. Children come to Eco-J for a field trip to experience a healthy food taste test in the garden and get up close to an alpaca while learning about digestion.

"It has been wonderful getting to host students back on the farm this year!" says Katie Flannery, Eco-J's Education Program Manager & Developer. "For many of our 1st graders this has been their first real field trip, and it has been a joy getting to share our passion for learning in the great outdoors with them during that experience. We feel it is important for all children to have the opportunity to get out of the classroom, explore new environments, and try new things, and Growing Healthy field trips allow us to facilitate all of that in one visit!"

A HUGE thanks to **SC Johnson**, the **Racine Community Foundation**, and the **Forest County Potawatomi Foundation** for funding Growing Healthy field trips!



Farm Corps

Updates from Aubrey Gordon, Farm Corps and Property Manager:

- So far we have grown **almost 3,000 pounds of produce** and are expecting to donate over a third of that to the Northside Food Pantry in Racine! Our new volunteer intern, Ariana, goes to the pantry once a week to help distribute food. She also creates and distributes recipe cards with nutrition information specific to the harvested produce.
- We love the freedom to explore different things in the garden. This season we tried a version of the “three sisters” in the back garden with popcorn, Hidatsa shield beans, and pumpkins. We’ve also started using a cover crop called buckwheat to suppress weeds and revitalize our older beds.
- Despite some challenges this season, we were able to grow large amounts of food. In spring it was difficult to get the plants into the ground because it was always too cold or too wet. In summer, a large rainstorm caused the loss of a lot of crops, including almost all of our sunflowers, a large number of corn stalks, and a whole bed of carrots. Additionally, a lot of our squash, melons, and other crops with large leaves got powdery mildew, a fungus that can form when the leaves get too wet and don’t dry out.
- To optimize our growing space, we tried out straw bale gardening, which allowed us to grow produce in an unprepped area. The outcome wasn’t that great this year, but we’re going to try again next year with some differing methods to try and make it work!



With Sincere Thanks...

Our fall fundraiser, Discovery Days, brought in \$15,000 in support!

Thanks to those of you who attended Discovery Days this year. Hundreds of visitors came to the farm to felt alpaca beads, spin wool, make butter, learn about beekeeping, climb our tree house, paint a chicken, walk our meditation labyrinth, and much more.

Money raised during Eco-J Discovery Days...

- Contributes towards garden production – 30% of which is donated to the Northside Food Pantry
- Buys 130 bales of hay & 45 bales of straw for more than 30 animals on the farm
- Purchases 52 bags of chicken feed
- Pays for vet care for our aging alpacas
- Contributes towards education of school groups, summer camp children and visitors

A special thank you to Nicole Reid & Tiffany Behrends, Discovery Days Committee Chairs, as well as the dozens of volunteers who gave time and talents to work food tents, makers tents, the gift shop, and more.

We are grateful to our generous event sponsors:



Mark Your Calendars!

Nov. & Dec. Eco-J Gift Shop
 Nov. 26 & 27: 10am–3pm
 Dec. 1, 8 & 15: 1pm-6pm
 Dec. 4, 10-11, 17-18: 10am–3pm

Dec. 3 Needle Felting Alpaca Ornaments
 Pre-registration required.

Dec. 21 Winter Solstice
 Free, all are welcome.

March 19 Spring Equinox & Open House
 Free, all are welcome.

More info to come in 2023!
ecojusticecenter.org



Eco-J Gift Shop - buy local, buy handmade!

Our gift shop features home made jelly from the wild black raspberries, mulberries, serviceberries, and grapes harvested at Eco-J. We also have local, raw honey available for purchase. We work with local beekeeper, Brian Gleichauf, who keeps hives on the grounds of Eco-J and produces Bub's Honey.

Need some stocking stuffers? Hand made felted animals are one of our most popular items! In addition we have tote bags, alpaca dryer balls, knitted alpaca hats & scarves, and more!

Eco-J Gift Shop hours:

- Nov. 26 & 27 from 10am – 3pm
- Thursdays: Dec. 1, 8 & 15 from 1pm-6pm
- Dec. 4, 10-11 & 17-18 from 10am – 3pm



Eco-J Wish List

Support our work by donating something on our wish list!

Please call us at (262) 681-8527 if you have any questions. We would be glad to pick up larger items if needed!

- Farm & Fleet / Klema Feed gift cards
- Arborist throw weight
- Tree felling wedges
- 12-inch tongue & groove pliers
- 16-inch tongue & groove pliers
- "Forever" postage stamps
- Hardware store gift cards
- Large Rubbermaid tubs

