

**\*Please use this to introduce Will Allen**



**GROWING POWER**.INC.

## About Will Allen



Will Allen is an urban farmer who is transforming the planning, cultivation, production and delivery of **good**, healthy food to **urban** and **rural** populations. As the son of a southern sharecropper and former professional basketball player, ex-corporate sales leader and longtime **farmer**, he is recognized as a national /international leader in urban and rural agriculture and food policy. After a career in professional basketball and a number of years in corporate sales and marketing at *Procter & Gamble*, Will Allen, in 1993, returned to his roots as a farmer to purchase the last

remaining registered farm in the City of Milwaukee, where he established and functions as Farmer, Founder and CEO of the world preeminent urban farm and non-profit organization, **Growing Power**.

In 2008, Allen was a **John D. and Katherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellow** and “genius grant” winner. In 2010, *Time Magazine* named Allen to its’ list of **100 World’s Most Influential People**. A member of the **Clinton Global Initiative**, he was invited to the White House in to join **First Lady Michelle Obama in launching “Let’s Move!”**—her signature leadership program to reverse the epidemic of childhood obesity in America. In 2010, Allen received the **Key to the City of Milwaukee**, presented by Milwaukee Mayor, Tom Barrett. In 2011, Allen received **The James Beard Award**. In 2015, he was selected to the **National Organic Standards Boards’ Hydroponic/Aquaponic USDA Taskforce**. Allen also attended the **Milan Expo 2015** in Italy as part of the **U.S. Presidential Delegation** led by First Lady Michelle Obama. In 2016, the **Good Food Award** was given to Lakefront Brewery’s *Growing Power Farmhouse Pale Ale*.

**Allen’s autobiography, *The Good Food Revolution: Growing Healthy Food, People, and Communities* (C. Random House, Penguin/Gotham Books)**, was published in 2012 and received the **Silver Medalist Award** from Axiom Business Books. The book was nominated for *Outstanding Literary Work for a NAACP Image Award* in 2013. *The Good Food Revolution* is being used as a college text book across the nation.

In the world of basketball and sports, Allen was given the highest honor bestowed to a collegiate athlete, the **Theodore Roosevelt Award** from the **National College Athletic Association** with his name enshrined at the **NCAA Hall of Champions** in Indianapolis, Indiana. (2012) He was also inducted in to the **Atlantic Coast Basketball Conference Hall of Legends**. (2010) A member of the University of Miami Hall of Fame, Allen has been bestowed **five honorary doctorates** from the **Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design, Marquette University, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, School of Freshwater Sciences, University of Miami, Florida and Hofstra University**.

He has been given the **National Education Association Security Benefit Corporation Award for Outstanding Service to Public Education** in recognition of his work with children, teachers and schools.

Allen has been named one of the **World’s Most Powerful Foodies** by Michael Pollan and *Forbes Magazine*.

Will Allen continues to do his work out of Growing Power’s National Headquarters in Milwaukee, WI to bring **Good Food** to people all over the world to help end poverty.

---

5500 W. Silver Spring Dr.  
Milwaukee WI 53218  
Phone: (414) 527-1546  
Fax: (262)439-6141  
[www.growingpower.org](http://www.growingpower.org)  
[staff@growingpower.org](mailto:staff@growingpower.org)

## WILL ALLEN

### AWARDS, RECOGNITION AND ACHIEVEMENTS

#### 2016

- Alpha Kappa Alpha - Presidential Award-Target IV- Environmental Ownership
- Named to the first Rodale 100 list
- St. Mark A.M.E. *Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.* Award
- Good Food Award given to Lakefront Brewery's Growing Power Farmhouse Pale Ale
- Roundy's *Best Sustainable Farming Practices* Award
- Inducted into the University of Miami's Sports Hall of Fame

#### 2015

- Member of the National Organic Standards Boards' Hydroponic/Aquaponic USDA Taskforce
- Member of the U.S. Presidential Delegation to Attend The Milan Expo 2015 in Milan, Italy
- Proctor and Gamble Alumni Humanitarian Award
- Briggs and Stratton Sustainability Award
- Repeat of Farm to School Carrot Procurement of 2014

#### 2014

- Honorary Doctorate from Hofstra University, New York
- Keynote speaker at International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) Organic World Congress, Istanbul, Turkey
- Instrumental in the single largest Farm-to-School fresh food procurement ever in the U.S., according to the USDA.  
40,000 lbs. of carrots, grown locally, sold to regional schools.
- Featured in Sharp Literacy's Children's book, *There Grows the Neighborhood: Agriculture in the City.*
- Made a member of the Growing Food Connections, National Advisory Council
- Salem Lutheran Church's Good Neighbor Award, "For Outstanding Work in Our Community."
- Featured in Readers to Eaters children's book, "*Farmer Will and The Growing Table.*"
- Northside Food System Collaboration
- IUAN

#### 2013

- US Composting Council H. Clark Award, for individuals who have displayed outstanding service to the composting industry
- Prime Movers Fellow, Hunt Alternatives Fund
- Saint Joseph's College, Indiana Honorary Speaker for Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration
- NAACP Image Awards Nomination for Outstanding Literary Work for "The Good Food Revolution: Growing Healthy Food, People, and Communities"
- Axiom Business Book Awards Silver Medalist for Memoir/Biography for "The Good Food Revolution: Growing Healthy Food, People and Communities"

- Started Day Care Garden Initiative to install tomato gardens in 50 licensed Milwaukee day cares, getting children involved in growing and eating healthy food
- Started Vets Program to teach military veterans work skills in growing field of aquaponics and provide therapeutic training

## 2012

- NCAA Theodore Roosevelt award, the highest honor given to a college athlete
- NEA Security Benefit Corporation Award for Outstanding Service to Public Education
- Black History Month Legacy Award, Democratic Party of Wisconsin
- Rachel Carson Environmental Award, Natural Products Association
- Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, University of Miami
- Honorary Doctorate Degree, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Freshwater Sciences
- Urban Economic Development Association of Wisconsin, Award of Recognition
- City of Toronto, Recognition for Canadian Launch of The Good Food Revolution
- March of Champions 2012 Honoree (Milwaukee, WI)
- Community Brainstorming Conference recipient of the James Howard Baker Award
- Milwaukee's Shepherd Express Best of Milwaukee recipient for Local Activist and Urban Farm

## 2011

- James Beard Award
- 7 World's Most Influential Foodies by Michael Pollan and Forbes Magazine
- Green Giant Green Award of \$25,000, designated for Will Allen College Scholarship Fund for Growing Power Youth Corps
- The 2011 Huffington Post Game Changer Awards
- Finalist for the Harris Bank Cornerstone Award, honored by LISC Milwaukee at the 12th Annual Milwaukee Awards for Neighborhood Development Innovation
- "Social Justice" Award for Growing Food and Justice for All initiative
- Garden Club of America's Zone Horticulture Commendation
- Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters, Marquette University
- Social Innovation Prize of Wisconsin for the Growing Capacity for the Green Economy Initiative
- Stood alongside Prince Charles and others, participated in the Future of Food Conference at Georgetown University
- YES! Magazine "YES! Breakthrough 15"
- Growing Power received the Hall of Fame Award, Kiwanis Club of Milwaukee
- May 11th designated Growing Power Day in Milwaukee by Mayor Tom Barrett
- Trailblazer Service Award, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. Epsilon Kappa Omega Chapter
- Growing Power, Engaged Community Partner Service-Learning Recognition Certificate, Marian University
- Community Leader Award, Jewel Osco

## 2010

- Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People in the World
- Spoke to the nation from the White House as part of First Lady Michelle Obama's announcement of her "Let's Move!" initiative
- Invited to the White House State Dinner in honor of Mexican President Felipe Calderon
- National Jason Award, Children's Square
- Atlantic Coast Conference Legends Award
- Milwaukee Press Club Headliner Award
- Awarded Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts, Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design
- Presented a Testimonial Resolution from the Detroit City Council
- In Harmony with Hope Award, The Elfenworks Foundation

- William Dempster Hoard Award for distinction in agriculture, Wisconsin Historical Society
- Key to the City presented by Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett

## 2009

- National Governor's Association Distinguished Service to State Government Award
- Frank Kirkpatrick Award, Greater Milwaukee Foundation
- Natural Resources Defense Council, Growing Green Awards
- Milwaukee Times' 24<sup>th</sup> Black Excellence Award, for making a positive difference in the Milwaukee Community
- Lincoln Gaines Award, honoring excellence in community service and building strong communities, awarded by the YMCA's Martin Luther King committee
- Milwaukee Area Workforce Investment Board "Thank You"
- WHY (World Hunger Year) Chapin Award nominee
- Heritage Award, 29<sup>th</sup> Annual State of Wisconsin Tribute & Ceremony honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Certificate of Appreciation from Feed Denver: Urban Farms and Markets
- Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett thanks Growing Power for participation in the Summer Earn and Learn Program
- November 9, 2009 proclaimed "Will Allen Appreciation Day" by Alfonzo King, Mayor of Goldsboro, NC

## 2008

- John D. and Catherine MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship
- Pentagon medal to Will Allen and Growing Power
- Harry Chapin Self-Reliance Award Honoree
- Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful Lifetime Environmental Achievement Award
- The Office of the Mayor for the City of Milwaukee named September 24, 2008 as Will Allen Day for his efforts to serve the underserved in the city of Milwaukee
- Lincoln Gaines Award, honoring excellence in community service and building strong communities, awarded by the YMCA 's Martin Luther King committee
- Frank Kirkpatrick Civic Award, for efforts in bringing significant physical improvement to the Milwaukee community, Awarded by The Greater Milwaukee Foundation

## 2007

- \$15,000 grant to Growing Power for Farm to City Market Basket Program, Miller Brewing Company Employee Fund
- Recognition for Service as a member of the Board of Visitors 2004-2007, College of Agricultural and Life Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Growing Power a Trailblazer Award Finalist, 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Milwaukee Awards for Neighborhood Development Innovation by LISC

## 2005

- Ford Leadership for Changing World Award
- Urban Farmer of the Year, Chicago

## 2004

- Honored for participation in Heifer International's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary
- Official recognition of Growing Power and Will Allen by the Milwaukee Common Council

## 2003

- Milwaukee County Board, Black History Celebration, "Our Future, Our Hope, Planters of the Positive Seed"

- Community Partners of Milwaukee Appreciation Award
- Growing Power recognized by Milwaukee Common Council for hosting Rooted in Milwaukee's "Growing Up Green Through the Power of Food" Conference

## 2002

- Community Food Security Coalition, Leadership Award

## 2000

- WI DATCP Commendation for leadership and diligent work in sustainable agriculture
- Appointed to Waukesha County Farm Service Agency Committee
- Recognition for participation in National Public Lands Day Lynden Hill Urban Tree House site, America's Outdoors Center for Conservation, Recreation and Resources
- Recognition of the opening of Growing Power, Milwaukee Common Council

## 1999

- Heifer Project International Golden Talent Award for Excellence

## 1998

- "Student participants of Youth Building Communities expresses appreciation to William Allen for community service support this 29<sup>th</sup> day of May 1998 at Andrew S. Douglas Community Academy."