



**WE SEE ABILITY**



1770  
**COLLEGE of CHARLESTON**  
 M.S. IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY STUDIES

All Photos Source: CofC Masters of Environmental and Sustainability Studies

# OUR NEWEST PARTNER: HEALING FARMS

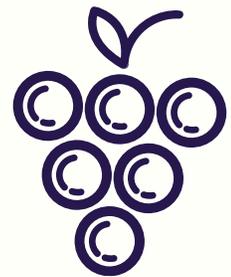
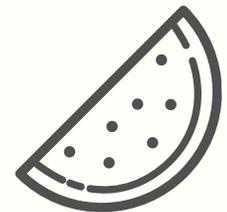
## ENRICHING LIVES AND GARDEN BEDS

By Amanda Namsinh  
 July 15th, 2020 Charleston, SC

Sustainable Agriculture at CofC has a new community partner! Healing Farms is a nonprofit dedicated to enriching the lives of people with disabilities by offering opportunities to tap into all their capabilities. This summer, we've started our new seasonal educational workshop series with Healing Farms. This partnership embodies our mission to make sustainable agriculture accessible to everyone in our community!

High school graduates with disabilities are less likely to be offered opportunities for education and employment. Healing Farms offers a unique opportunity to connect with these young adults. Healing Farms offers Day Programs, Summer Camp, and Community Events to create a supportive network for people with disabilities, to help build relationships, and to teach life skills. The participants can cultivate a stronger sense of independence through their variety of activities on the urban garden and within the community

For more information about our Sustainable Agriculture sponsored by the Masters of Environmental and Sustainability Studies, please visit our website [mes.cofc.edu](http://mes.cofc.edu). Healing Farms website: [healingfarms.com](http://healingfarms.com)



## OUR TIME WITH HEALING FARMS

As we all navigate through the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have all experienced some setbacks. Healing Farms' ~200 square foot garden bed was scheduled to be rejuvenated in March with new soil for the upcoming growing season. The garden became overgrown with weeds. Our team of graduate and undergraduate student gardeners lent a hand in mid-June to revitalize the space.

**Tron Severe**, the executive director of Healing Farms, lead our garden workers to make his vision for the garden become a reality. **Tron** has

been working with Healing Farms since 2014, where he has been "helping the community learn how to engage, support, and love the special needs community." Our first day at Healing Farms was a great success!

**Laura Davis**, a Certified Therapeutic Recreational Specialist (CTRS), serves as a Facilitator at Healing Farms and utilizes her CTRS training to create fun and engaging activities for the participants since August 2019. Participants are often outside for field trips. They visited our CofC campus urban gardens and harvested some of our produce!

We hosted first educational workshop in late June to teach them about seasonal planting. Participants helped plant and water young vegetable plants and seedlings. We hope to continue collaborating with Healing Farms to enrich the lives of the special needs participants.



Healing Farms Facilitators/Participants and EVSS Gardeners  
Left Picture: Painting terra cotta pots for new seedlings (From bottom left to right: **Parker, Josh, Jason, Brooklyn, Levi, Tron, Cassandra, Rosemary**)

Right Picture: After our garden workday and meeting the Healing Farms team (Top row: **Jason, Sasha, Amanda, Sara, Lucy, Michael**; Bottom Row: **Laura, Josh, Rosemary, Johnny, Brooklyn**)