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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Evanston Friends Meeting Honors Evanston Grows with 2024 Peace Award

Evanston, IL – 05/09/2024 – Evanston Friends Meeting is proud to announce that Evanston Grows, an urban farming organization dedicated to sustainable agriculture, food access, and community empowerment, has been selected as the recipient of the 2024 Peace Award.

The Peace Award, bestowed annually by Evanston Friends Meeting, recognizes organizations and individuals whose work embodies the principles of peace, justice, and compassion. This year, Evanston Grows was chosen for its outstanding contributions to fostering food security and promoting environmental sustainability through urban farming initiatives.

Founded on the belief that peace begins with access to nutritious food and a thriving community, Evanston Grows has been instrumental in addressing food insecurity and promoting social equity in Evanston. With 1 in 6 Evanstonians experiencing food insecurity, Evanston Grows is dedicated to providing high-quality, nutritionally-dense food free of charge to help alleviate the hunger gap. Through its innovative urban farming and gardening projects, educational programs, and community partnerships, Evanston Grows has empowered residents to cultivate fresh produce, foster connections, and build a more resilient and inclusive Evanston.

Says Julia Pantoga, the clerk of the committee that recommended Evanston Grows for the Evanston Friends Meeting (EFM) Peace Award, "Many members of EFM are involved with Evanston Grows projects addressing food insecurity in Evanston. Our committee is impressed by the way Evanston Grows actively listens to neighbors of their projects. We love the way they weave peace and community into gardening and farming."

In recognition of this achievement, Evanston Friends Meeting will present the 2024 Peace Award to Evanston Grows during a special ceremony during the Evanston Grows Annual Seedling Sale on Saturday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 12:30pm. The event, open to the public, will be held at the Fleetwood-Jourdain Community Center, 1655 Foster Street in Evanston.

"We are deeply honored to receive the 2024 Peace Award from Evanston Friends Meeting," said Laurell Sims, Executive Director of Evanston Grows. "This recognition reaffirms our commitment to building a more peaceful and equitable world through sustainable agriculture and community collaboration. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Evanston Friends Meeting for their support and solidarity."

For more information about Evanston Friends Meeting and the Peace Award ceremony, please contact Julia Pantoga of Evanston Friends Meeting. To learn more about Evanston Grows and its mission, visit [evanstongrows.org](http://evanstongrows.org).

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