How You Can Support Us

Pilot Light leverages food education to support all young people in learning and advocating for healthy choices throughout their lives by bridging the lessons they learn in their classrooms to the food on their lunch trays, at home, and in their communities. There are many ways to support Pilot Light in advancing our mission. We welcome your support in whatever way(s) most appealing to you.

Refer a Teacher
Pilot Light is proud to support teachers with professional development and resources. Each spring, teachers can apply to our Food Education Fellowship. Fellows receive stipends and monthly professional development while delivering weekly food education lessons, creating new lessons, conducting food advocacy lessons, and evaluating the effects of food education on their students. Contact Education Director Katie Colvin if you know someone who would be interested in becoming a Fellow.

If you know teachers outside of Chicago who are interested in integrating food education into their daily instruction in core subjects, please refer them to our online Food Education Center where they can search for and download free food education lessons for both in-person and distance learning.

Donate
Support Pilot Light’s teachers and students in building a healthier Chicago through a curriculum that teaches about food, through food. Your generous donation will ensure that more students understand the important role food plays in their lives so they can make healthier choices for a lifetime. Make a donation online to support a Pilot Light teacher or classroom or contact Major Gifts and Events Manager, MaryBeth Jirgal, for information on recognition circles, donating securities, making a gift of stock, or making a donation through your donor-advised fund.

Join a Committee
Our committees are vital to Pilot Light’s success. We are always looking for new members of our Development, Strategy, and Marketing Advisory Boards, our Young Professionals Board, or the Planning Committee for Feed Your Mind, our annual fundraising gala. Contact Manager of Institutional Giving, Kathy Argentar about the Development Committee, Major Gifts and Events Manager, MaryBeth Jirgal, about the Feed Your Mind Planning and Auction Committees, Food Educational Support Manager Caitlin Arens about the Young Professionals Board and Executive Director Alexandra DeSorbo-Quinn for all other committees.

Get Regular Updates
Pilot Light regularly shares information about our events, classroom cooking experiences, and food advocacy projects on our website and on social media. Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and Instagram (@pilotlightchefs) to find out how you can connect with our chefs and supporters at special events and get the most current information on what we’re up to. You can also read our Feeding Minds blog or sign up for our newsletter here.

Attend FEED YOUR MIND at home
FEED YOUR MIND at home celebrates our 10th Anniversary with our founding chefs. We’ll share how we make an impact and hear from special guests. Guests are encouraged to share a meal virtually by ordering from a local, independent restaurant of their choice (Please note: Orders are not a donation to Pilot Light but are a wonderful way to support independent restaurants). This year’s event will take place on November 6, 2020. Get your tickets here to find out how to join us in this year’s virtual event.

Contact Us:
- Executive Director: Alex DeSorbo-Quinn: alex@pilotlightchefs.org
- Education Director, Katie Colvin: katie@pilotlightchefs.org
- Manager of Institutional Giving: Kathy Argentar: kathy@pilotlightchefs.org
- Major Gifts and Events Manager: MaryBeth Jirgal: marybeth@pilotlightchefs.org
- Food Education Support Manager: Caitlin Arens: caitlin@pilotlightchefs.org

Feed Your Mind: www.feedyourmindgala.org