



To Our Partners and Supporters,

Ron Pitz, Executive Director of KNOX, Inc. since 2009, has announced his intention to retire in the coming months.

Ron has worked for KNOX for nearly 25 years, and in that time, he has been an active leader within the greater Hartford area on issues including horticulture, food security and environmental sustainability. He has forged many significant beneficial relationships with community members and local leaders.

During Ron's tenure as KNOX's leader, he more than doubled the endowment, oversaw the planting of more than 10,000 trees, created a fee-for-service program that contributes greatly to KNOX's revenue, and successfully secured the Neighborhood Builders® grant from Bank of America. As Executive Director, he has strengthened KNOX's commitment to the City of Hartford by serving as a commissioner on the city's Food Policy Advisory Council and by working with the city to ensure that its recent overhaul of its zoning regulation included provisions permitting uses such as community gardening and urban farming. Over the years, Ron has provided job training to a diverse crew of Hartford residents through programs such as the Green Crew Conservation Corp and Trees for Hartford Neighborhoods, and he oversaw the creation of KNOX's urban farming, environmental education programs.

"When I joined KNOX, I envisioned the organization being known as Hartford's hub for urban forest canopy restoration and urban farming," Ron said. That vision led to KNOX tripling the number of community gardens it manages, as the organization expects to have gardens on 30 different sites in the city, reaching more than 200 gardeners in 2019. According to Ron, the urban farming program has become "a vital resource for farmers in the city, and has created opportunities for KNOX to support local residents in increasing both their personal food security and economic stability as they begin to commercialize their products." He also noted that remarkably, "KNOX community gardeners and urban farmers are now growing 200 tons of produce annually" – and a ton of that fresh produce has made its way into the Hartford Public Schools in a partnership that gives students a healthier option in the lunch line and provides a commercial opportunity for KNOX farmers. Given KNOX's growth in recent years, Ron is "confident that KNOX's strong team of staff, Board of Directors, and financial sustainability will ensure the organization will continue to grow and thrive."

KNOX's Board of Directors has begun a search for a new Executive Director- [view Press Release here.](#)

Board President Emily Gianquinto says the Board is grateful to Ron for his years of service and for his many contributions to KNOX, the City of Hartford, and the greater Hartford community. "The Board is also grateful to Ron for his commitment to work with KNOX through the leadership transition, and we all look forward to engaging KNOX stakeholders to assist us in selecting a person with the passion and skills to broaden the reach of KNOX's important work to make Hartford a greener, healthier city."