On Friday, October 20th, 2023, CHSC hosted its 8th Healthier Long Island Challenge Conference, “Planting Seeds for Success.” Keynote Speaker and 2023 Global Food Hero Stephen Ritz, of the Green Bronx Machine, spoke about his globally-recognized educational program that made history, incorporating growing fresh produce in the classroom.

Attendees enjoyed a morning panel, demonstrations of group physical activity, and exhibitors from local organizations and resource partners. In the afternoon, there were breakout sessions covering School Growing and Curriculum, Walkability, and Community Growing initiatives such as the Master Gardener Program, seed libraries and horticultural practices.

Continuing on, CHSC will be working with educators, administrators, and community organization representatives who attended and were inspired to implement gardening and tower growing in their own classrooms, schools, and community settings.

Creating Healthy Schools and Communities (CHSC) is a New York State Department of Health grant dedicated to supporting schools and community sites in increasing access to healthy, affordable foods and physical activity opportunities.