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Downtown Urban Farm Welcomes St. Anthony's Learning and Play Station

Four and Five year olds from St. Anthony's Learning and Play Station will dig in and learn about fresh food and where it comes from during a field trip to downtown Bryan's recently opened Urban Garden. A group of fifteen will venture out to the garden to take a tour and participate in several activities to teach them about vegetables, gardening, and healthy food choices. This is the first school field trip that the garden is hosting but DUFi organizers plan to host more school age and adult visitors.

DUFi is part of Advent GX's approach to creating sustainable economic development solutions for communities by using innovation and entrepreneurship in support of cultural and heritage preservation. By partnering with existing organizations and creating gardens with multiple uses, Advent GX is building a model that can be replicated in other rural and underserved communities.

The DUFi approach makes use of underutilized or vacant lots by distributing gardens in, and around Historic Downtown Bryan. In doing so, Advent GX hopes to help preserve the character of downtown, offer a unique experience and provide easy access to information and demonstrations about growing healthy food. The project also reconnects the local community to his agricultural heritage.

The first demonstration garden is located in the fenced garden patio behind the Federal Building where Advent GX owns and operates the Innovation Underground, their local business incubator. Upon expansion to larger lots, Advent GX will partner with Beautiful Abilities, a local home and community services provider for adults with intellectual disabilities, to provide urban farm operations and maintenance services.

To support the financial sustainability of the distributed gardens, Advent GX will lease the garden spaces as venues for meetings, receptions and special events. The gardens will also become classrooms for local students as well as other communities who visit Advent GX in Bryan seeking support and inspiration for their own community and economic development efforts. Urban Farm crops will be sold to local restaurants, providing a local source for seasonal produce.

Beautiful Abilities is a start-up company located in the Innovation Underground that provides a network of sustainable services and resources for individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Founded in 2004 as a spin-out from Texas A&M University, Advent GX is a tourism and economic development solutions provider with practices in economic analysis, innovation & entrepreneurship, tourism development, and marketing & creative services.

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