

## **Indoor Organic Gardens of Poughkeepsie**

### **Sponsored by: Indoor Organic Gardens of Poughkeepsie**

**Opportunity:** Hands-On Indoor Gardening Experience

Interested in a unique model for INDOOR organic gardening in an urban setting? This thriving garden business occupies under-utilized space in downtown Poughkeepsie, is staffed with typically under-employed people and is producing beautiful organic microgreens. Their process recycles and re-uses water and compost and they harvest on a 10-day cycle.

This is a unique opportunity to join the team for a one week stint and learn from the expert, founder Austin "Brud" Hodgkins.

**Dates:** To be determined with host at a mutually agreeable time – one week. Plan to arrive on a Monday and leave on a Friday.

**Location:** Indoor Organic Gardens of Poughkeepsie, NY

**Includes:** Airfare (up to \$500)  
Lodging provided by/with Host in their home  
(private bedroom and private bathroom)

Please note, best transportation is into NYC (by air, bus, or train). The train to Poughkeepsie will be picked up by the Host. WCR will provide the travel reimbursement to NYC.

Completed Application (see link) should include a one page essay on your interest in organic produce/urban gardening and what you hope to gain from this scholarship.

**Opportunity Highlights:**

- See this unique business in action
- Be a part of the 10-day harvest cycle
- Learn the nutritional differences between hydroponic (non-organic) growth and sterile compost/soil-based gardening

- Understand the complexities of staffing, shipping, marketing, and growing highly nutritious, organic microgreens

### About IOGOP

The goals of IOGOP are straightforward:

- Utilization of unoccupied building space in urban Poughkeepsie
- Employment of Veterans and youth who are challenged to find work given their skills
- Provide a supply of nutritionally dense produce for restaurants, retail, schools, hospitals, assisted living facilities and chefs locally and via overnight shipments

For more details, visit: <https://indoororganicgardensofpoughkeepsie.com>

### **About Founder Brud**

Serial entrepreneur Austin “Brud” Hodgkins saw an opportunity among the unoccupied buildings he passed daily in downtown Poughkeepsie. As a founder of several successful businesses such as a bank, resort, marina, and maple syrup company, Brud researched carefully before creating the Indoor Organic Gardens of Poughkeepsie.

Understanding value of the nutritionally dense microgreens and their short life cycles was key for Brud as he created the gardens in 2015. His business model not only aims to assist in revitalizing his city, but also employs typically under-employed individuals – those on the autism spectrum, veterans and non-violent offenders.

His product is top-notch, organic and best of all, delicious. He serves local restaurants and food establishments as well as offers overnight shipping of the greens around the country.

It’s rare to find a business concerned about nutrition, employment, revitalization and high quality but Brud has pulled it all together at IOGOP. He generously has offered to host a WCR Scholarship winner, spending one week with him and his business and his family to see the workings first-hand and to learn from this pioneer.

