



Stone Soup Leadership Institute's  
Story of the Week: Tammy Bird, Food from the 'Hood  
Week of June 16- 22, 2024



*"We had a goal of doing something that would help everyone--all races--come together. And we did it. We showed the world that with hard work and a dream, anything is possible."*

**Karla Becerra, Crenshaw High School Student  
Food from the 'Hood  
Los Angeles**



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Sunday June 16: Story: Tammy Bird, Food from the 'Hood

READ how one student's life was changed by her teacher Tammy Bird and what she learned with Food from the 'Hood.

Tammy Bird wanted to create a sense of hope for her students after the LA Riots.

"Just as our garden blossomed, so did she, into a confident, supportive and outgoing person."

Discover how one teacher's desire to help students regain a sense of community led to a bright and profitable business idea in the book, Stone Soup for the World

[https://stonesoupleadership.org/wp-](https://stonesoupleadership.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/story-food-from-the-hood.pdf)

[content/uploads/2022/12/story-food-from-the-hood.pdf](https://stonesoupleadership.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/story-food-from-the-hood.pdf)



**We all fell in love with the garden because we were growing happiness."**

**Tammy Bird's Student  
Food from the 'Hood  
Los Angeles**



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Monday: June 17: Tammy Bird, Food from the 'Hood

Teacher Tammy Bird was deeply upset about how her students had suffered during the 1992 LA riots. She wanted to find a way to renew their spirit and bring out the best in them. She and her students started with a cluttered, weed-filled, vacant lot right outside her classroom window and turned it into a garden.

Thanks to their "Food from the Hood" salad dressing, sold in 2000 grocery stores across the country, each student has a college scholarship.

Her story is featured in Stone Soup for the World and in the Stone Soup Educational Curriculum.

Link: <https://stonesoupleadership.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/story-food-from-the-hood.pdf>

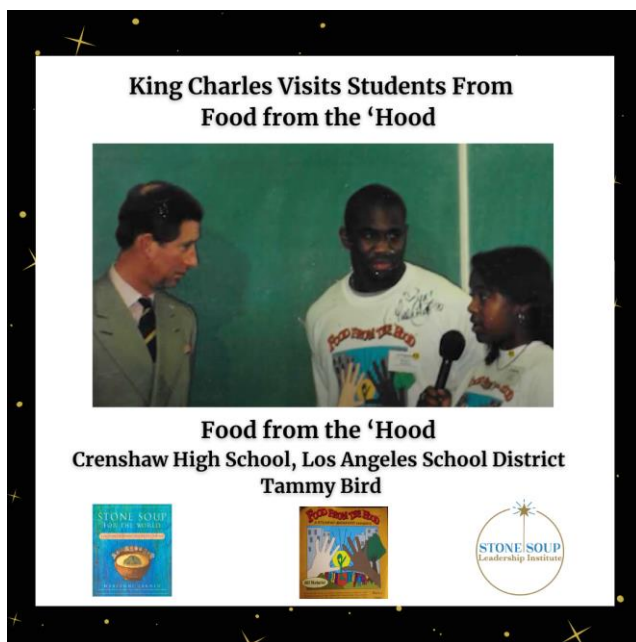


Tuesday: June 18: Tammy Bird, Food from the 'Hood : Hero Report

WATCH this short video of Tammy Bird sharing the Food from the 'Hood's mission and impact on her high school students. The student-owners had to learn a lot about accounting, as well as making, marketing, and distributing a new product. They developed self-confidence as well as the tools, people and

resources to set them up for success. They used the skills they learned from the program to persevere in the job market in their adult lives.

<https://youtu.be/rcoH-ovd6Lg>



Tuesday: June 18: Tammy Bird, Food from the 'Hood: King Charles: 2<sup>nd</sup> post

Then Prince Charles of England visited the Food from the 'Hood garden in 1994. Karla was voted by the students to give the prince the tour of the garden. The girl who was once too shy to speak out in the classroom braved a crowd of 200 reporters armed with cameras and microphones.

“We hosted Prince Charles in the garden because he is about entrepreneurship. He was heavy into gardening and organic composting well before his time,” reflected Tammy Bird in documentary ‘The History of Food from the 'Hood.’

The story of Food from the 'Hood and educator Tammy Bird's journey alongside her students is featured in Stone Soup for the World and in the Stone Soup Educational Curriculum.

<https://stonesoupleadership.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/story-food-from-the-hood.pdf>



Wednesday: June 19: Honor Roll:

National School Garden Programs. June 19<sup>th</sup>

The National School Garden Support Organization Network (SGSO Network) is an open learning network growing, sustaining and elevating a movement of equitable garden-based education.

SGSO Network provides professional & leadership development, resources, and platforms to connect for members serving at a school, district, regional, state, or national level. <https://sgsonetwork.org/>

Growing School Gardens is a collaboration between the Sprouts Healthy Communities Foundation and the School Garden Support

Organization Network, with the mission of bringing in-person and virtual learning and community building programs to the extensive network of school garden support organizations across the United States.

Learn more:

<https://growingschoolgardens.org/viewer-guide/>

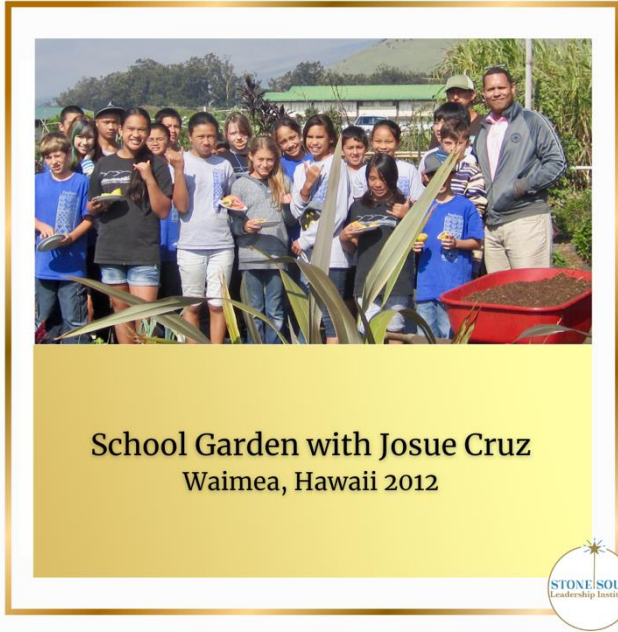


Thursday: June 20: Gardening: Institute Feature

The Institute has been a key partner in school gardens with their Sustainability Summits and youth leadership initiatives.

Martha's Vineyard: "Teenagers and young adults, some from the Vineyard, others from the Caribbean, were on an unusual bus tour of the Island last week, taking in the Dumptique, school gardens, Island Cohousing, the Farm Institute and Morning Glory Farm. The young group was part of the Stone Soup for the World Youth Summit, and the sight-seeing was designed to coax them in their

contemplation of how they could build a more sustainable future.”



Read more: <https://mvyli.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/generations-green-gathers-for-summit-7-2-10-vineyard-gazette2.pdf>

The Institute’s Sustainable Hawaii Youth Leadership Initiative welcomed Vieques youth leader Josue Cruz to speak at the Waimea Middle School on Hawaii Island, Hawaii in 2012.

Josue was fascinated with the similarity of challenges and opportunities facing both his Puerto Rican Island and Hawaii. "The Island of Hawaii is really one of the leaders among the islands in sustainable development initiatives," he said. "It was awesome to personally visit them and meet the leaders of these great organizations and institutions."

<https://stonesoupleadership.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/mvtimes-amicorps-pitches-in-051211.pdf>



Josue Cruz received the Institute’s first Walter Cronkite Award in 2010. He used his new found fame and power to spearhead the first “Green Initiative’ in Puerto Rico School Gardens. He worked across the aisles to gain bi-partisan support and receive a several million dollar USDA grant. His efforts were far-reaching and touched more than 5,000 students–150 teachers created more than 100 school gardens in Puerto Rico’s public schools.

Watch Josue Cruz share his experience at the Walter Cronkite Awards 2011:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_VpG-aJ-UPk&t=127s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_VpG-aJ-UPk&t=127s)

**Fridays for Educators**

THE STONE SOUP LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE'S  
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Social Emotional  
& Service Learning Curriculum

**Lesson Plan**  
for the  
**Story of the Week!**

**STONE SOUP FOR THE WORLD**  
MARJANNE LARNED

**Tammy Bird**  
Food from the 'Hood  
Los Angeles

estonesoupleader

STONE SOUP  
for the World

Friday: June 21: Lesson Plan: Tammy Bird, Food from the 'Hood

EDUCATORS use this FREE Lesson plan to help your students learn how they can turn a challenging situation into a successful business.

Help your students learn about the values of compassion, commitment, creativity, resourcefulness and the ability to rebuild.

Link: <https://stonesoupleadership.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/lesson-plan-food-from-the-hood.pdf>

**Press**

**Los Angeles Times**

CRENSHAW : Salad Dressing Gives Young Crenshaw Entrepreneurs a Taste of Success

**Newsweek**

**FOOD FROM THE HOOD**

Buy Our Products! Send Us to School!

Decade of Success...

Proceeds from sales of the salad dressing, "Straight Out the Garden," benefit a scholarship fund for the nearly 30 students who co-own Food from the 'Hood, a produce business they launched on campus nearly two years ago.

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Saturday: June 22: Press: Food from the 'Hood

LA's Crenshaw High School students became part of a successful business story after blending school gardening and learning business skills.

"We're just growing by leaps and bounds," said biology teacher Tammy Bird. "We had the vision...We just needed someone to believe in us enough to give us the money to really get going."

Food From the 'Hood set up its salad dressing line with the help of food manufacturer Sweet Adelaide and salad-dressing entrepreneur Norris Bernstein as

well as other professionals. With hard work and teamwork the group "was able to make, bottle and get its salad dressing onto grocery shelves via food brokers and distributors."

Read more: <https://www.latimes.com/archives/la-xpm-1994-08-21-we-29478-story.html>

"Urban Gardening"  
"School Gardens"  
"Organic Gardening"  
"Climate Lesson Plan Pitfalls"