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For Immediate Release

Ninth Annual Love Your City Awards Gala Donates Recirculating Farms' Local Garden Bags to Musicians' Clinic Elder Patients

New Orleans, LA. – This week, supporters of LifeCity and the Regional Sustainability Committee of the Love Your City Awards Gala donated 100 Recirculating Farms' Growing Local garden bags to elder musicians and medically vulnerable culture bearers in the Makin Groceries program of the New Orleans Musicians' Clinic. The donation is part of an ongoing effort by [Recirculating Farms](#), a nonprofit committed to increasing equity in local, healthy food production and distribution.

"We are very excited to be able to donate our Growing Local Garden Bags to the Musicians' Clinic, thanks to LifeCity raising funds at its Love Your City Gala this year. Music is at the heart of our culture in New Orleans, and we are so happy to bring healthy local food to people who share their talent with us all." said Marianne Cufone, Director of Recirculating Farms.

Recirculating Farms sells a [low cost, locally sourced garden grocery bag](#) for weekly delivery through [Top Box Foods Louisiana](#), to increase availability of affordable, accessible fresh food in the community. The bag is also part of [Market Match](#), a program through Market Umbrella, which means for people who use SNAP and EBT, the cost is half price.

Every year, LifeCity and the [Regional Sustainability Committee](#) hosts a new edition of the [Love Your City Awards Gala](#). On this day, New Orleans' business and impact leaders converge for a glamorous academy awards-like evening honoring winners, providing networking opportunities, and enjoying live entertainment. Over the last eight years, over 122 awards have been presented to businesses and organizations for environmental and social impact achievements and to empower change-makers to take on the next steps in their sustainability missions. The 2020 year was unlike any other, and our Awards Ceremony needed to be just as unique. This year, we leveraged the Love Your City Awards platform to support local musicians, artists, restaurants, and families in need. It was the same amazing event, with the added benefit of supporting our local community.

Liz Shephard, Founder and CEO of [LifeCity](#) said, "When we started planning the Gala for this year, we knew that we wanted to do something special, and donating fresh local food just felt right. It was a perfect fit to collaborate with Recirculating Farms on this, as they have been an integral part of LifeCity, and working on food equity in New Orleans for over 10 years. We were overwhelmed by the generous community response to make these donations happen."

A collaboration between the New Orleans Musicians 'Clinic, the New Orleans Culinary & Hospitality Institute and the music venue The Howlin' Wolf, Makin' Groceries began in March 2020 at the beginning of the music economy shut down. Initially it was an initiative to provide free take-out meals to musicians 3 days a week. It has grown to include a weekly grocery and meal delivery program for elder and medically-compromised New Orleans musicians along with weekly check-ins by a community nurse, vaccine access, a dedicated newsletter, and lagniappe such as kitchen items, recipes, and games.

“We were delighted when we found out our program would be a recipient of Recirculating Farms garden bags through the LifeCity and RSC, Love Your City Awards Gala donations. This gift is so important because it ensures that our elders will have fresh, nutritious and locally sourced food. So many musicians live in food deserts and the Makin Groceries program has been a real lifeline and gesture of love for them throughout this tough year. As a result of the pandemic, many have lost their main source of income, and this beautiful food, from those in our own community, demonstrates the direct impact of neighbors supporting neighbors and truly shows how every bit we do can really make a difference in the community and help fight food and nutrition insecurity,” said Arsène DeLay local musician and program director, New Orleans Musicians' Clinic.

If you would like to support the Makin' Groceries program through a donation of goods or services, please contact Zach Danner, zach@nomaf.org. For monetary donations, please visit www.neworleansmusiciansclinic.org/donate and indicate Makin' Groceries or mail a check to 1525 Louisiana Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70115.

ABOUT RECIRCULATING FARMS

Recirculating Farms is a non-profit collaborative of farmers, educators, activists and organizations committed to building local sources of healthy, accessible food. Through research, training and advocacy, we support development of innovative, eco-efficient farms, to create stable green jobs and supply sustainably-grown food in diverse communities. We also offer community programming, including farm classes, exercise, and health supportive cooking demonstrations; workshops; and [a weekly garden grocery bag](#). For more information, visit www.recirculatingfarms.org

ABOUT THE LOVE YOUR CITY INITIATIVE:

The Love Your City Initiative supports the development of for-benefit organizations in our community. The initiative is a program of LifeCity, whose mission is to build an economy that works for good, city by city. Working for good means that the results of business and other organizational activities improve the environment, support greater equity, our environment and empower people and organizations to become their best selves. As an impact management firm, LifeCity helps define, measure, validate and market impact in a world that is increasingly concerned with transparency and accountability. To learn more, visit www.loveyourcitynola.com or follow along on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#) or [Instagram](#).

ABOUT NEW ORLEANS MUSICIANS CLINIC

The New Orleans Musicians' Clinic (NOMC, founded 1998) is an established health and medical local 501c3 nonprofit. The NOMC's mission is to keep New Orleans music ALIVE by sustaining the city's traditional and emerging music cultures. We do this by providing cost-efficient access to direct healthcare, mental health support and social services for 2,500 performing artist patients and are the nation's ONLY organization to provide direct medical services to musicians and culture bearers regardless of their insurance status. The NOMC's community health programming promotes wellness & preventive health education, musician advocacy and support in the broader, indigenous New Orleans music community. For more information on the NOMC, please visit <https://neworleansmusiciansclinic.org/>