

October 28, 2010

Dear City Council Members:

As co-coordinators of the local chapter of Roots & Shoots, we are writing in support of, and commitment to, an egg cooperative in the City of Geneva. Roots & Shoots ([www.rootsandshoots.org](http://www.rootsandshoots.org)) is a community-based environmental and service organization sponsored through the Jane Goodall Institute. The mission of Roots & Shoots is “to foster respect and compassion for all living things, to promote understanding of all cultures and beliefs, and to inspire each individual to take action to make the world a better place for people, animals and the environment.” We believe that an egg cooperative aligns with this mission and offers our members—children ages 3-7—an opportunity to work directly in our community.

One of the hopes for each Roots & Shoots chapter is to have some type of environmental service project that is ongoing and consistent with the Roots & Shoots mission. The egg cooperative would give our children firsthand experience caring for animals, helping to improve the food supply for our community, and working toward doing all this in an environmentally sustainable way.

As Roots & Shoots coordinators, we operate with the philosophy that any person, regardless of her or his age, can make a difference. Children have a natural curiosity about the world around them, and every week we strive to cultivate that inquisitiveness by getting children outside and helping them notice the world through explorative play in nature. With the egg cooperative, we are giving our children the tools to make a difference in their community by teaching them to care for chickens, build and maintain the hen house, manage the land, clean the coop, and gather and distribute the eggs.

By offering this hands-on learning opportunity with the egg cooperative, children will begin to understand several things: their impact on the world around them; the origins of their food; the connection between humans, animals, and the land; and their ability to do something positive for their community. These important lessons will foster a sense of pride and understanding in their sense of self, community, and environment.

We support the egg cooperative as a significant community project that will help engage all young people—those involved in Roots & Shoots and those from the community at large—in the life that provides our food. By showing our children the impact they can have on humans, animals, and the environment, we are helping our children recognize the influence they can have on the world.

Sincerely,

Nan Crystal Arens and Caitlin Caron  
Co-coordinators, Seneca Roots & Shoots Chapter