

Whole Foods Broad Street celebrates a year in business, serving the community

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NEW ORLEANS —Wednesday was a day of celebration at the Broad Street Whole Foods in Mid City. It's been a year since the eyesore of an old, abandoned grocery store building disappeared and one that is now a fresh-food option for the neighborhood opened its doors.

The 25,000 square foot store is part of the [ReFresh Project](#) -- designed to provide more fresh foods to the residents in and around the Broad Street corridor.

Management says they have been able to do just that over the last year -- educating thousands of people on how to find and cook affordable, healthy foods -- and even how to grow some of their own products in the community garden.

As part of the ReFresh Project, the store has also partnered with groups like Boys Town, Liberty Kitchen and Firstline schools to reach families and at-risk youth -- providing them with work skills training and other services.

"I hope so," said Jackson Blalock, a shopper and Mid City resident. "I definitely see people here consistently which is in itself a sign of it transforming some sort of food culture."

"Everyone is just working together to make this corridor healthier and stronger, and then look at ways that we can get that message and that momentum across New Orleans," said Lindsay Morton, a Whole Foods Broad Street employee.