



Turnip Truck

Nashville, Tenn.

Number of Stores: 3

Celebrating its 20th year in business, Turnip Truck – a locally owned natural and organic grocer in Nashville, Tenn., began 2020 preparing to open its third location in the heart of Music City. Those plans were jeopardized when a deadly wind storm ripped through the area, demolishing much of the equipment for the store the same month that the COVID-19 pandemic began. Undeterred, founder/owner John Dyke and his team sourced available equipment and built the West Nashville store, ensuring a local food source for a new part of town.

The West Nashville store features environmentally responsible design, including solar panels and the reuse of an existing structure on a busy road. In common with Turnip Truck's other locations in East Nashville and The Gulch, the new location is near established neighborhoods, increasing residents' access to healthy fresh food.

Not only was Turnip Truck able to weather the storm, its three stores thrived in difficult conditions by protecting employees and shoppers and giving back to the communi-

ty. From installing sanitizing stations and sneeze guards to being an early adopter of strict cleaning protocols, the retailer worked diligently to combat disease spread. Its good stewardship led to prominent coverage by numerous local news outlets, including TV, the front page of *The Tennessean*, and a multi-issue series in the local business press.

In the area of community outreach, Turnip Truck supported Nashvillians facing homelessness, joblessness and food scarcity because of storms and the pandemic by donating food to worthy causes, including Martha O'Bryan Center's Second Harvest Food Bank in East Nashville and The Nashville Food Project. Further, to help heal Nashville's storm-ravaged ecosystem, the retailer raised funds for Nashville Tree Conservation Corps, which replanted mature trees in town.

Meanwhile, on a lighter note, in a city increasingly known for its mural art, Turnip Truck brought beauty to its newest store by commissioning an original work by a local artist. In collaboration with Fairtrade America, which sponsored the project, the retailer designed and installed a mural promoting gender equity and Fair Trade products.