

Jefferson County Master Gardener Volunteer Service Gardening Project Annual Report

Gardening Project: 2014 WE GROW

Submitted by: Diane K.

Date Submitted: October 27, 2014

A. Gardening Project Activities:

1. **Describe the projects, activities, educational programs, etc. conducted this year.**

This year the spring After School Club learned about how to plant potatoes for the first time, with a result of over 70 lbs. of potatoes being harvested; made seed tapes to try in the garden; created signs to mark the crops; learned about square foot gardening and planted the garden using templates; did an Adopt-A-Plant where the students decorated 5 and 3 gallon buckets, chose a plant to care for (which were started by seed, by them, earlier in the spring) and took it home for the summer. The fall ASC have planted bulbs for spring; carved pumpkins for roasting the seeds; and cleaned up the garden, along with the annual Fall Feast which allows them to taste produce grown in the garden in various dishes.

The "Watch it Grow" summer school program learned about top dressing the garden with mulch; planted seeds in an EarthBox as an alternative way to garden, along with straw bale gardening; tasted produce from the garden; planted annuals to take home; gave a garden tour to kindergartener's; had some muffins and soup made from produce from the garden; and added their hand prints as "flowers" to the garden shed.

2. **List the NEW successes and/or expansion of this project.**

The garden was expanded with the help of a United Way Pillar Grant with the addition of a fence to keep the soccer balls out; and by adding on 1200 additional square feet to make the school garden 40 feet by 90 feet; adding large garden beds for vine plants; added a handicap accessible garden table with the help of a WIMGA grant. Growing 70 lbs. of potatoes.

3. **Describe the problems and challenges you encountered.**

Lack of person-power to help with the various projects that need to be completed.

4. **Changes and improvements planned for next year.**

Adding perennial garden plants such as rhubarb, asparagus and raspberries.

Adding a monarch waystation.

Partnership with the Jefferson High School to accomplish some of the projects.

Continuation project with the kindergarteners.

Establish a WE GROW club.

5. **The steps taken in planning and implementing the project**

Ongoing project

6. **How this project made a difference (concrete results or how people felt about it).**

Children are discovering where food comes from, how much better it tastes, and actually starting their own gardens at home. We have talked with children who have moved on to middle school and wish they could still be part of WE GROW (thus the WE GROW club).

B. Funding Sources and Expenditures:

1. From JCMGVA: \$0.00
2. From the sponsoring organization: \$0.00
3. Donations (monetary and non-monetary contributions other than volunteer service): \$500.00
4. Grants: \$400 and 1,750

C. Volunteer Service:

1. 8 MGV's
List names: Diane K., Mike H., Audray W., Sharon S., Sue S., Dee H-J., Bobbie R., Ron L.
2. MGV leader(s) hours - 260
3. 529 Total MGV hours (including leader(s) hours)
4. 80 Total hours (estimated non-MG hours)
5. 12 non-MG volunteers
6. 16 adults and/or 4 youth (not including students that we are teaching) After School Club - 52 (total spring and fall) Summer School - 43