Garden-Raised Bounty’s End-of-Season Report

Spring, Summer, and Fall of 2001

Cultivating Youth Program

Kitchen Garden Project

Companion Planting Therapy Program

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WE DID IT!

In our first year of operation since the merger of the Kitchen Garden Project and the Sister Holly Garden Project, we have managed to not only survive but thrive! On January 1st, Garden-Raised Bounty was born. Our mission is to empower youth, elders, and low-income people to grow food for themselves and others in need.

In the pages that follow are photos, quotes, and stories from our bountiful year in our three programs. Below are some of our organization-wide highlights:

- We have recruited a wonderful Board of Directors who, with the staff, are learning the ever-evolving dance of the non-profit.
- With the vital collaboration of Community Youth Services we have expanded our employment program from two months to twelve, giving us the opportunity to support our youth through to their high school graduations.
- The Board, volunteers, and our youth put together an exquisite dining experience at our 4th annual Seafood at the Schmidt fundraiser, raising more money than ever for our work!
- As part of our Alumni Youth Program we sent two youth to the National Rooted in Community Conference in Detroit to network with other young people to similar work in their communities and I took the opportunity to take part in the Food Project Institute.
- With the help of the Cheney & Discuren Foundations, we began the development of outcome measurement tools to gather data, which will improve our efforts and prove our importance.

It has been a humbling experience to take part in the day-to-day operations of the KGP this last season, and to realize the kind of energy, commitment, and ingenuity Rich & Maria Doss put into this amazing idea for so many years. I can tell you this; they worked their tails off!

This next year we will be moving into a new office space with Community Youth Services, greatly increasing our entrepreneurial efforts, and forging new collaborations with other agency’s to enrich our garden endeavors. We hope you will stay aboard, as it promises to be a rewarding ride! Thank you for your faith & enthusiasm in our project. Read on!

Happy Gardening,

Kim Gaffi, Co-Director
Employment Program
In 2001, GRuB partnered with Community Youth Services to hire 12 low-income youth to participate in our new yearlong employment program. Youth were responsible for:

- growing over 1,500 lbs. of food for emergency distribution
- assisting our senior gardeners with needed chores
- marketing over $2,000 worth of bouquets, potpourri, & garlic braids to businesses and individuals
- cooking meals for each other and hungry folks at the Bread & Roses Soup Kitchen
- learning the science behind sustainable agriculture by visiting regional farms and conferences & educating other youth and community members about the importance of a healthy food system.

"I learned that I am capable of helping many people, and that at GRuB I can develop a sense of trust and security." - LeChi, youth staff

"Our son’s involvement with GRuB has given him a whole new perspective on himself as a young adult. It has been a completely positive experience - one he could never have gotten just by working a summer job, and certainly not from being idle all summer!" - David Chesanow, father

"The staff at GRuB are very encouraging in a positive way, and encourage insight and self-reflection for inner growth through games and exercises." Adrienne’s mom

"The gardening experience was so positive. The well-organized dinner with participation of the teens gave them self esteem and pride." Phyllis Walker, DSHS, Children's services
This spring and fall, over 100 middle & high school students prepared soil, sowed seeds, and reaped the harvest at our three gardens. Through our exciting new collaboration with YEP (Youth Enhancement Program), youth struggling with mental illness and developmental disabilities found structure, hands-on learning, and success in growing food for others in the garden this year.

“Great program! A definite constructive teaching tool that seems to have also helped Joshua’s self-esteem”.
- Mother of school program participant.

“This is a great program; we feel lucky to participate.” - Marshall Alternative Program

“(My son) has taken his sister and grandparents to the garden. He is proud of what he’s accomplished there and is eager to share it with others.” - Mother of school program participant

“I realized that doing physically hard work in the cold, in the rain, with people I just met, soaking wet, can be FUN!” - high school student

“I got to experience everything I learned, it was fun, the people are great, classmates are awesome!” - high school student

“I love this class. If every class was like this I would be a genius!” - high school student

Our School Partners:
Avanti High School
Bush Middle School YEP
Jefferson Middle School YEP
Marshall Alternative Program
Marshall Day Program YEP
New Market Vocational Skills Center
North Thurston Work-based Learning Program
The mission of KGP is to provide raised-bed gardens for low-income people. This work decreases hunger & promoting good nutrition, fosters self-reliance & self-sustaining behavior, & improves communities by improving their environment.

Excerpt from Letter from Evergreen Vista Resident Services Director - Paul Grudis

Besides providing food for these families and helping to stretch very tight budgets, the gardens proved to be an activity where all members of the families could share an experience. The gardens were an opportunity for some of our residents to assume a leadership role in coordinating garden assignments, trouble-shooting when problems arose, and teaching gardening skills to children. This program is a prime example of different community groups working together to provide an opportunity that otherwise would not be possible.

We built 90 gardens in Thurston & Mason counties this last spring. Most were at individuals' homes. Twenty were part of community gardens built and/or refurbished at apartment buildings serving low-income people.

On March 3rd, volunteers from the Olympia area traveled up to Seattle to join Lettuce Link in our annual seed-sorting party. Over 10,000 packets of seeds were distributed to low-income people through our program and our sister programs in Tacoma and Seattle.

“I have learned a great deal about gardening - first hand - and spent many happy hours with my garden. It has been a great blessing to my health and my diet.”
- Rosezetta Murray (pictured to left)
This fall, seniors are forming a garden planning committee to further their stewardship of volunteer involvement, and garden sustainability. Mastergardeners are beginning monthly classes, to be open to residents, volunteers, and community members.

The mission of the Companion Planting Senior Program is to provide nutrition, therapy, and community connection for low-income elders through raised-bed gardening. We hope serve as a model for other facilities serving seniors in the power and healing found in gardens.

The Providence St. Francis House is the primary site for our senior gardening program. During this year, over 35 residents cultivated over 500 pounds of fresh vegetables for themselves and their neighbors. Young people from our Cultivating Youth Program helped the seniors tend the communal garden beds and borders. Senior gardeners were also involved in the creation of a GRuB cookbook that we will be selling this holiday season.

Pictured above is Vera, a resident gardener, with Tiffany Ralston, our Americorps volunteer this year. Below is an aerial view of the St. Francis House Garden. Raised beds were built with the help of local high school students.
A Cornucopia of Thank-yous

For In-kind Donations this year: Bonnie Turner, Olympia Supply, Great Western Supply, Lumbermen’s Building Center, Bayview Building Materials, Barb Muse, Barb Temple, Winnie Cox, Matthew Hastings, Black Lake Organic, Rising River Farm, Kirsop Farm, Sound Gardening & Pest Management, Batdorf & Bronson, The Perennial Gardener, Pacific Stage, Olympia Food Coop, Kennedy Creek Quarry, Patagonia, Dice Screen Printing, Safeway, Fred Meyer, Costco, Taylor Shellfish, Ramblin’ Jacks, and Waste Management NW.


YOU ARE THE FERTILE SOIL FROM WHICH THIS PROJECT GROWS! THANK YOU!
We thank everyone who made this year so rich and productive.

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and all the others who know who they are.