



Gardeners in Community Development

901 Greenbriar Lane • Richardson, Texas 75080
(972) 231-3565 • grower@flash.net

www.gardendallas.org

Dear Friend,

During the holiday season, the giving of gifts is part of sharing our best wishes and blessings with others. Gardeners in Community Development (GICD) successes are due in large part to gifts from our neighbors, families, friends, fellow community gardeners, and volunteers. Please include GICD in your gift giving for the year 2011.

If you have been to Our Saviour Community Garden on a Tuesday morning you will have experienced the true blessings of community gardening. On a recent Tuesday in November a handful of folks came for an early breakfast followed by lending a hand to harvest vegetables for the food pantry. This has been going on for several years, and over 50,000 pounds have been harvested and donated. On this particular day the harvesters are anxious to make a final picking of tomatoes, peppers, basil, eggplant, and other tender summer crops before the predicted freeze. Added to radishes, turnip and mustard greens, rosemary and sage, the total on this day weighed 298 pounds. A couple of hours later, at the local food pantry, the moms and a few dads, seniors, and other needy neighbors were all smiles. They were thankful for receiving some really fresh vegetables in addition to the regular pantry offerings of dried and canned goods.

These are people doing something about hunger in their neighborhood; participants in a project to help themselves and to help others in need. Some volunteer to help at the garden, and also volunteer to help at the food pantry. Some tend garden plots to get food for their own children, and also grow extra to donate so that other families have enough food. These people are actively doing something about low-incomes and lack of secure well-paying jobs, as is common these days, and they find joy in gardening together and giving food and support to others in need.

Many are actively part of GICD because they have children and care about the wellbeing of their neighbors. Is there anything better than enabling someone that knows hunger to be a grower of vegetables in a community garden? And, on top of that, to develop the skills to grow so much that there is extra for distribution to others that are food insecure? And, if that is not enough, to be part of a team that works to teach others how to do the same? Every GICD gardener knows that children and their families need nutritious and wholesome vegetables in their diet, and they are gaining vital experience in planting, harvesting, and sharing locally. This is the best of locally grown food: absolutely fresh, no chemicals, and made possible through collaboration with GICD and with participation of friends and neighbors.

At GICD's community garden training center, the Center for Growing People at 1616 N Jim Miller Road, Dallas, we are very serious about teaching people how to organize and maintain sustainable gardens that impact local hunger. Each year around 400 persons attend workshops or get experience through participation in hands-on activities, and many local garden projects have benefited from our technical support and training.

We are also expanding our projects with refugee gardeners. This year several immigrant families from Bhutan received training at the Center and have become our newest additions at the East Dallas and Live Oak Community Gardens. We welcome everyone to visit and become a part of activities at the Center for Growing People, and also to buy vegetables at the East Dallas Community Garden, 1416 N Fitzhugh, on Saturday mornings.

By making a charitable contribution to the GICD program you are supporting great community building and food production projects, and ensuring that we can reach out, train, and inspire an expanding number of successful community gardeners and other food producers across North Texas.

Sincerely, and best holiday wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Lambert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a vertical line at the end.

Don Lambert
Executive Director

If your gift is received by December 31, 2011, you may be eligible for a 2011 tax donation.
Thank you for your generosity.