COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS: FAITH GARDENS

GOALS

Faith Based Gardens are similar to community gardens, with particular faith-based affiliations. Common motivations include **FEEDING THE HUNGRY**, building community, and creating multi-generational and **CULTURAL CONNECTIONS**. Many gardens offer produce to their volunteers or congregation members in need, and several also **DONATE** produce to food pantries in the community.
These gardens typically are focused on creating **THERAPEUTIC SPACES** for individuals to relax and contemplate life, allowing for people to feel a part of something larger then themselves. Often, faith based affiliations will connect with businesses outside of the church for participation and or training opportunities: refugee farming, high-school internships, master-gardeners volunteers, etc.

BENEFITS

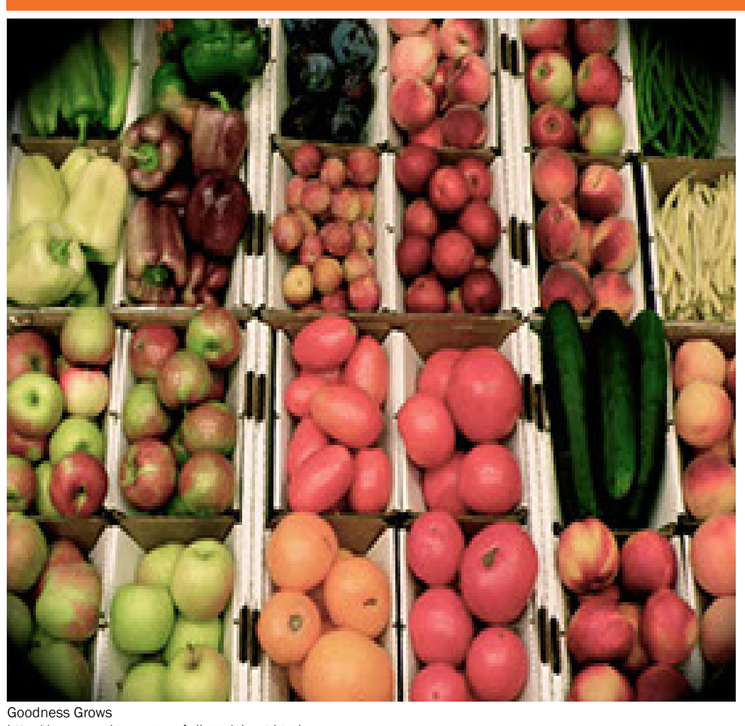
- Create Food Security
- Educate and Build Awareness about Hunger
- Opportunities for community involvement
- Provide food for the hungry
- Connection to those outside of the church
- Environmental diversity + awareness
- Multi-generational Learning
- Therapeutic space
- Training opportunity
- Help create a robust local food system
- Teach people how to grow their own food

COMMUNITY IMPACT

- **Feeding the Hungry:**
  One acre faith garden donates to kitchens and pantries- helping feed over 2000 families a year.
  Last year 17,000 lbs. of produce was donated from one garden

- **Volunteer**
  Creating community capacity and ownership in the community;
  volunteering builds friendships and contacts, increases social and relational skills and is good for the mind and body

NATIONAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



Goodness Grows
http://www.goodnessgrows4all.org/about.html

GOODNESS GROWS: North Lima, OH

A non-profit organization that helps community groups, congregations, and families grow out of hunger. They provide agricultural training to organizations to promote social and economical change, leading to self sufficient families and entrepreneurs.

Common Good Gardens
http://graceoldsaybrook.org/Common-Good-Gardens/

COMMON GOOD GARDENS: Grace Episcopal Church- Old Saybrook

Formerly known as the soup kitchen garden, the garden grows produce for the Shoreline Soup Kitchen pantries and also offers produce to neighbors in need. They offer volunteer days, three days out of the week.

Huble Harvest Food Bank Garden
http://mlfaith.blogspot.com/2013/07/st-martins-episcopal-church-gardening.html

ST. MARTIN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH: Humble Harvest Food Bank Garden

In 2013 the garden began and a group harvested produce to provide to the local food bank- Great Valley Food Cupboard. Experienced gardeners and volunteers help with the garden and teach basic ways of growing and maintaining vegetables. 70% of all vegetables are donated to the food bank and the rest is shared with volunteers.

Plant a Garden for the Hungry: Faith and Food Gardens
http://www.foodgatherers.org/?module=Page&sID=plant-a-row-for-the-hungry

INTERFAITH COUNCIL: Faith + Food Project

The Faith and Food Gardens started in 2009, and in 2011 over 26 local congregations tended gardens and offered up to 10,000 lbs. of donations to the hungry, and the amount keeps growing. Efforts of gardening are specifically guided to alleviate hunger and provide a just food system.

LET US KNOW OTHER BEST PRACTICES

TITLE: CONTACT INFORMATION:

INTERESTED IN HELPING? SHARE YOUR INFO

NAME: CONTACT INFORMATION: