

FAIR FOOD MATTERS – GROWING MATTERS GARDEN PROGRAM – KALAMAZOO MI

Spring 2009

Dear Community Member,

Although it seems spring is a bit slow to awaken this year, signs of the new season are steadily unfolding all around us! Every day I see more tree buds swelling with life and robins hopping in the green, growing grass. Soon **children will be in the gardens** – playing with earthworms and sowbugs, gently tucking seeds and seedlings into garden beds, and seeping up the long awaited days of sunshine and warmth!

Last summer, more than eighty students came to the Growing Matters Garden, putting their hands into the rich soil, learning the basics of organic gardening, and forming a lasting connection with where their food comes from. We are proud to offer our **eighth year of summer gardening programs** for local youth from organizations such as Family & Children Services, the ARK shelter, and Woodward Elementary School.

During our educational programs, **students are engaged in the entire growing process** (from seed to compost) with ample opportunities for planting, weeding, watering, harvesting, prepping for market, and eating! We play garden games, journal about thoughts and dreams, and simply enjoy working together outside in the fresh air and quiet of the garden.

Community is the core of our organization and we welcome you to join us in the gardens. As a grass-roots organization, we both encourage and depend on help from college student interns, volunTeens, master gardeners, and community members like you. Becoming involved with our program is a great way for you to learn more about organic gardening and local food too!

As you are perusing gardening books, gathering tools, or picking up a few packets of seeds, please take a moment to think of the Growing Matters Garden program. **If you feel strongly about local organic food, environmental stewardship, and empowering youth, please consider a donation** to help us continue our valuable educational programs. Your tax-deductible contribution provides funding for a student in the garden or a thematic garden bed. If you are unable to make a financial contribution, please consider donating supplies or lending a hand as a volunteer. **Your support is extremely important for the success of our program!**

Please find enclosed with this a letter a donation form, garden wish list, and map of our main garden site. Feel free to contact me at 269-492-1270 or heather@fairfoodmatters.org with any questions you might have about our program. Additional information and updates are also available via our monthly e-news and at our website www.fairfoodmatters.org.

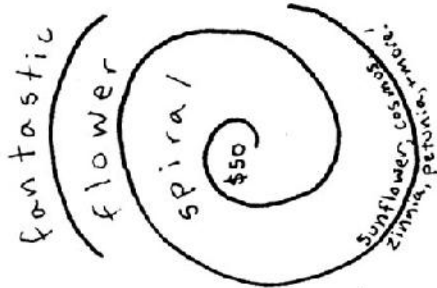
Thank you for your support!

Heather Crull
Growing Matters Garden Manager
Fair Food Matters



2009 Growing Matters Garden Program

Sponsor a garden bed.



"tea for two" herb garden \$45



composted manure

helpful, handy horseradish \$10

green ones!
 beans, beans, and more... beans! \$35
 yellow ones!

Plump Pumpkins \$30

sumptuous salad mix \$25

plentiful parsley \$10

edible flowers \$20

bountiful basil \$20

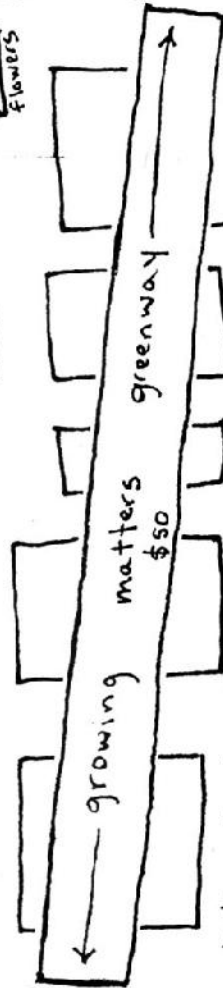
three sisters native american planting corn, beans, squash \$25

centennial celery \$45

pleasing potatoes \$36

radish, turnip, carrots, beets, parsnip, rutabaga, rad roots! \$25

← in to the garden



Kale, collards, chard, cabbage, pak choi, mustards, brussels.

goodness, garlic! \$10

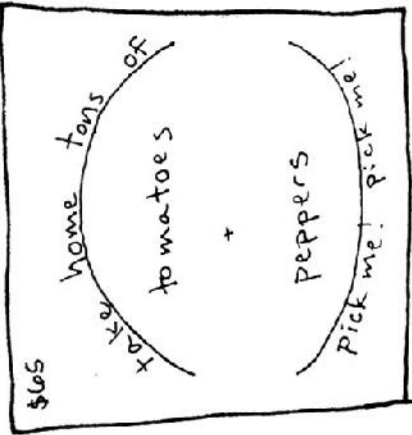
Simply \$20 strawberries

colossal compost! \$30

old-timey onions \$15

bodacious broccoli \$35

the mystery garden ??? \$15



Your generous support is needed! Please return this form to:

Growing Matters Garden Manager, Fair Food Matters, 323 N Burdick St, Kalamazoo MI 49007

*******Please note: checks should be made out to FAIR FOOD MATTERS*******

Name: _____ Phone/email address: _____

Address: _____

____ **Please list my name as a sponsor at the garden site and/or at the Farmer's Market.**

____ **Yes! I would like to sponsor a student for the 2009 growing season! I have included:**

- ____ \$10 (cost of providing a nutritious snack for a student for 10 weeks)
- ____ \$25 (cost of providing snack and garden supplies for a student for 10 weeks)
- ____ \$35 (cost of providing snack, supplies, and an awesome educator for a student for 10 weeks)
- ____ \$50 (cost of providing snack, supplies, educator, and a portion of the garden rent/utilities)
- ____ \$100 (helps cover summer program costs and to secure the future of the program)
- ____ Other amount: \$ _____

____ **Yes! I would like to sponsor a Growing Matters Garden bed for the 2009 growing season!**

I really like the _____ thematic garden bed (see map) and have included \$_____ to sponsor it!

____ **Yes! I would like to help in another way!**

- ____ Assist with educational programs ____ Farmers' market harvest assistant
- ____ Garden maintenance volunteer ____ Donation of supplies or materials listed below
- ____ Other: _____

2009 GROWING MATTERS GARDEN WISHLIST

- Garden Tools (leaf rakes, hoes, hand trowels, pruning shears, etc) |
- Watering cans | GARDEN EQUIPMENT
- Rubber boots (used or new, sizes appropriate for youth ages 6-adult)|
- Mulch/compost materials (straw bales, spoiled hay, bagged leaves) |
- Plant supports (trellis, netting, stakes and twine) | GARDEN SUPPLIES
- Large dark colored plastic tarps |
- Clean plastic buckets (preferably food grade) |
- Popsicle sticks / plant markers |
- Poster board, wood and paint for art projects and signs | EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES
- Digital Cameras |
- Color inkjet printer |
- Folding tables and chairs |
- Shelving and plastic storage boxes (i.e. Rubbermaid w/ tight lids) | INFRASTRUCTURE
- Picnic tables or benches |