

Dear Community Member,

The snow has melted and we've planted the first potatoes in the garden. Our indoor flats are overflowing with tomatoes, peppers, greens, and herbs ready to transplant after the danger of frost. The birds are singing and the bumblebees are loving the spring flowers. It is once again time to prepare for the Growing Matters Garden and we need your help to make it a success!



Last summer, more than 120 students came to the Growing Matters Gardens, 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 **ninth 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, our garden wish list, and a map of our main garden site. Feel free to contact us at 269-492-1270 or email [erica@fairfoodmatters.org](mailto:erica@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](http://www.fairfoodmatters.org).

Thank you for your support!

Erica Barajas, Heather Crull, and the Growing Matters Garden Team

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 2010 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 2010 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**2010 GROWING MATTERS GARDEN WISHLIST**

- Garden tools (leaf rakes, hoes, hand trowels, pruning shears, etc) |
- Watering cans | GARDEN EQUIPMENT
- Garden hose spray nozzles |
- 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
- Large beach / picnic blankets |
- Pens and pencils |
- Folding tables and chairs |
- Shelving and plastic storage boxes (i.e. Rubbermaid w/ tight lids) | INFRASTRUCTURE
- Picnic tables or benches |

2010 Growing Matters Garden Program  
sponsor - a - garden - bed

majestic mint  
\$10

sensational  
salsa garden  
tomatoes, peppers,  
onions, cilantro  
\$35

basking  
broccoli  
\$35

celery

tomato

onion

greens

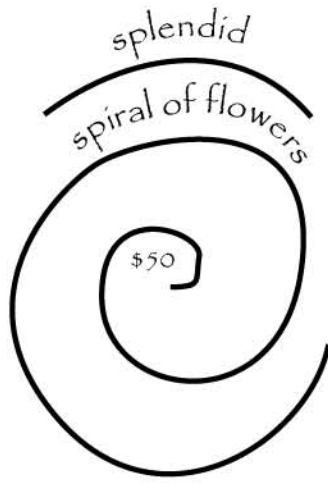
head  
lettuce

super salad bowl \$65

crazy compost  
\$30

glorious garlic \$10

simply \$20  
strawberries



helpful  
herb  
garden  
\$45

gratifying greens \$50

gratifying greens \$50



have some horseradish  
\$10

beautiful  
basil  
\$20

precious  
potatoes  
\$35

sassy  
sweet  
potatoes  
\$25



edible flowers  
\$30

peppy  
parsley  
\$10

magical mystery bed  
\$75

three sisters  
traditional  
native american  
planting  
corn - beans  
- squash  
\$45

raging  
root  
veggies  
\$25

crayola  
box o' beans  
lemon yellow  
inchworm green  
eggplant purple  
\$35