

## Community Gardens Meeting June 2, 2009

The purpose of this meeting was to update and review progress to date in the four content areas defined at the January meeting. The group reports were as follows:

### 1. Food Bank and Co-ops:

**Primary Concept-** Develop a process to glean produce from local gardens for distribution within the garden, across the neighborhood or through the Food Bank “Fresh Truck” or other food pantries. Through the Master Gardeners and Extension develop produce cards containing instructions for the preparation and cooking of produce. These cards would accompany produce packages at food banks and pantries

**Progress to date:** Bob Green and Amy Smith reported that the outline and information for the cards was complete. Amy shared a prototype with the group. Douglas County Health Department has received grant funds from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human entitled Cultivating the Community Garden. This grant will pay for the design and production of cards. Bob noted that the Master Gardener do some gleaning as public service and would check to see how gardens might be able to link to this process.

**Resource Development:** A work group met the on May 28 to draft a gleaning procedure for sharing produce within the garden, neighborhood or community. The draft procedure is found as an addendum to the minutes. **Members were asked to review the procedure and submit suggestion for modification to Mary Balluff.** When finalized the generic procedure along with resources information will available on the Douglas County Website for community gardens to use as a guide developing their own gleaning produce. Each community garden can modify the procedure to meet their unique needs.

### 2. Neighborhoods

**Primary Concept:** Develop toolkit containing information and resources to start a community garden and maintaining garden efforts over time.

**Progress to date:** Douglas County Health Department has received grant funds from the Nebraska Department of Health and Human entitled Cultivating the Community Garden to develop the community garden tool kit. Patty Falcone with the Douglas County Health Department was introduced as the staff person assigned to this grant. The toolkit will be based on *Starting a Community Garden* by American Community Garden Association; *Community Garden's Lessons Learned from California Healthy Cities and Communities*, and *Food for Me a Citizen's Action Fact Sheet for Community Food Recovery*, Maine Cooperative Extension. Toolkit development will occur through the summer and fall will approval of the toolkit and training to occur in late winter. Members are encouraged to contact Mary or Patty with ideas or resources for the toolkit.

**Resource Development:** One of the first activities of the process is to map the area's community gardens. **Members were asked to provide information about the location and basic operation of their garden to assist in this process.**

### 3. Farmer's Market

**Primary Concept:** To increase access to Farmer's markets by expanding to locations, developing a shared space for community gardens at the Old Market location and pursue a state policy to create farmer's markets as WIC vendors. The Omaha Farmer's Market would plans to share the success of these efforts through a conference held in next year

**Progress to date:** Sue Barnhart reported that the Farmer's Market had established a shared space that community gardens could use to sell their produce. Stephanie Aschewede will schedule the use of the stall so gardens are encouraged to **contact Stephanie (402) 898-9862 if they are interested in selling produce on a Saturday.** In addition the Market has available an information booth that will feature a dietitian, activities for children and can distribute information about community garden's. **Sue (402) 345-5401 would like anyone who is interested in participating in this booth to contact her for more information.**

**Resource Development:** Rebecca Weitzel noted that Benson is discussing the establishment of a market and she will keep us updated. In addition members suggested other farmer's market should be contacted and asked to attend the next meeting

### 4. Micro business

No report at this time

#### **Networking and Dialogue**

- Eric Williams reported on the progress of the Dundee Community Garden which now has more than 44 plots assigned and has weekly activities.
- Andy Jameton reported that City Sprouts has education and training activities occurring every week and encourages others to come and join in the fun.
- Rebecca Weitzel reported on the progress of the Earth Shelter garden.

**The next meeting of this group will be held Thursday October 15at the extension office rooms B and C from 4-6 pm. Happy Gardening.**

**Attachment 1 DRAFT**

**Community Garden Gleaning Process** There are several mechanisms that can be used to share the bounty including: a broader distribution among stakeholders, distribution within the neighborhood surrounding the garden or distribution via emergency food agencies. In a small stakeholders meeting conducted last week, a potential list of options was constructed and serves as a basis for today's discussion. This document captures potential procedures and policies that can be included in the toolkit as examples:

**1. Within and between garden stakeholders**

Food parties such as a salsa party including a free produce give away  
Invite kids into the garden; ask if they want produce to take home & give them

Set up tent or table for each stakeholder to sell, exchange or give away produce

Plant theme gardens and share the produce example a Pizza Plot  
Stakeholder exchange party to distribute on site

**2. Within Neighborhood surrounding a garden** i.e. 4 block radius of garden

Pick up locations within neighborhood area

Door to door distribution

A buying coop or shares which can be "cashed" in for produce

**3. Distribution at locations distant from the garden or through emergency food agencies** such as The Food Bank and Together Inc. collect fresh foods from local farms, grocery stores and individuals for redistribution to people who need access to healthier choices by:.

Mobile pantries – contacts, schedule

Produce distribution with ingredients needed for a fresh food recipe

Example Food not Bombs at Community Bike Shop

Fresh food Truck visit garden

Plant food bank plots designated for the agencies

If you have food that you would like to donate:

- Together Inc. Food Recovery and Distribution Program call Angie Remington to schedule a pick up at (402) 345-8047 ext. 201
- Food Bank and the Food Bank Fresh Truck contact Nancy Lee at 331-1213 to schedule a pick up or a fresh truck on site

**Seed Bank** local example Happy Gardener

Seeds of Change

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