

Seeds of Success

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Seeds of Success is a publication of The Garden Growers, Quad Cities Community Gardening, a program of Iowa State University, Scott County Extension

Julia Blazevic, Editor



The Garden Growers' mission is to promote healthy lifestyles and beautify our community by building capacity for gardening.

What is Success?



Sr. Marilyn Schierbrock, the Central Community Circle Garden leader, John Maxwell, Scott County Extension council member, and Lisa Brinnen, pose for pictures after John and Lisa delivered straw to the garden

With all the rain we received last spring and summer, it was a challenge keeping the weeds at bay. But with some mulch between the rows of vegetables and a bit of the old-fashioned weed-pulling, all gardens can look like Central Community Circle garden. Just ask Sr. Marilyn, she will be happy to tell you how a community, when they pull their resources together, can make things happen. Many years ago, The Garden Growers helped establish a community garden on 6th Street, between Warren and Vine. We continue to provide it with roto-tilling, starter vegetable plants, straw and mulch. But it is the neighbors and volunteers who make the garden successful. In addition to assigned garden plots, they built raised beds and planted vegetables that are "available to anyone who comes thru asking for this type of food. This way they have a chance to pick their own veggies and learn to respect the garden area because they are trusted". - says Sr. Marilyn.

Growing in the Garden, Summer 2010



In collaboration with the Scott County Family YMCA, 83 Scott County children received hands-on gardening experience at two Davenport locations and one Bettendorf location during summer 2010

"Both my wife and I lost our jobs last December. The business I worked at for 30 years closed before Christmas and the restaurant my wife worked at closed some time before that. Winning the Great Garden Makeover contest this spring was an uplifting thing in our lives."
- Lynn Klunder, The Great Garden Makeover contest winner

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We Couldn't GROW without YOU!!!

There are many ways to help us grow!

Spread the word about The Garden Growers to friends and neighbors who love to garden.

Find a site that could benefit from a garden or green space.

Recommend a garden for the 8th Great Garden Showoff.

Serve on a committee to assist with fund development, marketing, or other tasks vital to our success.

Make a donation.

Help us clean community gardens.



To learn more about how you can help call 563-359-7577 or email us at juliab@iastate.edu

The Great Garden Makeover



Property at 1044 S. Concord St. in Davenport after the makeover was completed in summer 2010

If you read our spring newsletter, Seeds, then you already know that we have started a new program called the Great Garden Makeover. With funding provided by Bechtel Trusts & Foundation, The Garden Growers held a contest for homeowners in southwest Davenport for a free garden makeover. The idea behind the initiative is to provide resources to people in older neighborhoods, bypassed by economic development and city-sponsored beautification projects, to improve their surroundings and regain pride in homeownership and their neighborhood. Our hope is that homeowners who received our help will in return help their neighbors beautify their yards and the trend will spread throughout the neighborhood. We are now in the process of taking applications for the second round of the contest!



The same property at the time we selected it for a makeover in spring 2010

They Helped The Garden Growers GROW



The Garden Growers Volunteer
Angela Hunt

A few years ago, The Garden Growers began its rebranding process - we changed our mission statement to better express our goals, redesigned our newsletters, developed new marketing materials, and established The Garden Growers website. If you looked carefully, you may have noticed that there was one name attached to all of our new marketing pieces. It was Angela Hunt, our most creative volunteer who helped us communicate our message in a way that is more in tune with the time we live in. Thank you, Angela!

"I liked the variety and individuality of the gardens. I especially enjoyed the older, more established gardens. The friendliness of the gardeners and fellow visitors made for a feeling of strong community values of beautifying our homes - city". - A visitor's testimony

The 7th Annual Great Garden Showoff

This great event took place over two evenings, on June 21 and 22, 2010. Eight northwest Davenport gardens were featured at this year's garden tour that attracted a record, 300 visitors who came to admire the gardens in established Davenport neighborhoods, developed on smaller city-size lots by the homeowners.

As in previous years, Iowa State University Scott County Extension Master Gardeners played an important role in planning and staffing the event.



A visitor enjoys a garden during The Garden Growers 7th annual Great Garden Showoff



Rich Craddick, Master Gardeners volunteer organizer, posing in his own home garden

The Garden Growers
Quad Cities Community Gardening

Yes, I want to continue to support community gardening in the Quad Cities!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Donation: ___ \$500 ___ \$75
 ___ \$250 ___ \$50
 ___ \$100 ___ Other \$ _____

Please mail to: The Garden Growers
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Your donation is tax deductible.



Shirlene H. from Clinton, Iowa, The Great Garden Showoff door prize winner