

MTS Grant Proposal: Springfield Community Gardens
5/8/15

Contact Information:

Main Contact for this Proposal: Maile Auterson Board President: 417-414-7129
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Board member: Heather Parker 417-425-4779

Organization's Mission Statement:

The mission of SCG is to establish a network of community-led gardens to empower neighborhoods by addressing food insecurity, building relationships and social capital, and providing those in our community with an improved food environment. Our goals include supporting and connecting community gardens throughout the city, establishing a thriving neighborhood food innovation district, and promoting successful food production, garden education and healthy eating.

Project Name:

Urban Farmer training for Food Bank and Community Garden leaders

Proposal Summary - In 100 words or less summarize the purpose of this request:

(100 words)

The purpose of the request is to support SCG's efforts to help build a sustainable, local food system. In addition to building community gardens, SCG is expanding our efforts to training Garden Leaders who will be able to produce high yield. Optimizing each garden's produce yield will support SCG's mission to build community and solve hunger and support Ozark Food Harvest efforts to support charities who solve hunger. We will utilize a network of established community resources including Missouri State University, Ozarks Food Harvest, and Fassnight Farms.

The purpose of this request is to support Springfield Community Gardens (SCG) ongoing collaborative efforts with local food bank, Ozarks Food Harvest (OFH). Together, we are building a sustainable local food system in the Ozarks. We currently distribute 2000 pounds of produce per week and harvest for OFH; with proper training, we will optimize our gardens to produce higher yields adding more produce to the food bank. Dan Bigbee, expert farmer and owner of Fassnight Farms (an established partner with OFH) has agreed to train SCG

apprentice farmers in our High Yield Farmer training program. This will train our garden leaders and volunteers to grow more produce for the food bank. apprentice farmers in our High Yield Farmer training program.

Geographic Area to be Served:

Springfield, MO

Agency Name:

Springfield Community Gardens

Organizational History & Brief Description of Previous Year's Accomplishments:

Springfield Community Gardens first took root when a small group of residents, university students, and professionals joined together with the idea of forming a neighborhood garden in the Grant Beach Neighborhood.

Construction of the Grant Beach Community Garden began in 2010 with the assistance of the Springfield-Greene County Parks Department and the City of Springfield's Neighborhoods and Planning Office. Since then, we have grown steadily. In 2014, SCG officially formed as a 501(c)(3) with the mission of expanding their model to new areas across the city. Ozarks Food Harvest partnered with SCG in the summer of 2014, to create a weekly supplemental fresh produce distribution for the Grant Beach Neighborhood. By the end of 2014, the neighborhood received over 46,000 pounds of produce to complement the 2,000 pounds gleaned from the Grant Beach Neighborhood Garden. In addition, the distribution created a solid volunteer base of 40 garden members who logged over a 1,000 volunteer hours in just 5 short months. In 2015 to date, we have distributed over 60,000 pounds, served 249 families and logged over 1,600 volunteer hours from the very citizens the produce distribution is serving. This makes our program unique. We now service more than 15 community gardens.

Springfield Community Gardens (SCG) began when a small group of residents, planning students and professionals joined together with the idea of forming a neighborhood garden in the Grant Beach Neighborhood of Springfield, MO. In partnership with Springfield-Greene County Parks Department and the City's Planning and Neighborhoods Office, plans were developed to build an accessible garden on recently acquired school-park property, between Weaver Elementary School and Grant Beach Park. Construction of the garden was funded in 2010 by the City of Springfield's Neighborhood Assessment Program.

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Description of the funding request (how funding will be used):

Funding will be used for the extensive, professional, high yield crop training of SCG community garden leaders by Dan Bigbee, owner and operator of Fassnight Farm. It will also be used to purchase soil, garden tools, equipment, and transportation/travel associated with training. This will establish the initial infrastructure expansion of current programs. Produce grown during the training of garden leaders will be distributed to Ozarks Food Harvest food bank. Our program will also simultaneously provide the skills and knowledge needed to increase production at SCG garden sites and grow high yield crops on private city plots.

What impact do you hope to accomplish with this project? Who will participate in the program? How many participants do you anticipate for your program? Will there be a cost to the participants (if so, how much)? What will be measured?

Optimizing each garden's produce yield will support SCG's mission to build community and solve hunger and support Ozark Food Harvest Food Bank efforts to support charities who solve hunger.

Fifty percent of Fassnight Farms yield will go to the OFH Food Bank in the first harvest glean, and 100% in the second glean. Our program will also enable SCG to donate more produce. Our apprentice farmers will create a network and infrastructure of community garden leaders and urban farms to regenerate and sustain a local food hub. We will help create a food-centric community that focuses on the cultivation and distribution of healthy food and education through a network of community gardens and farmed city lots. Participants will include those most in need of resources and college students who are regularly volunteering in our community gardens. The program will train 20 apprentices who will become Garden Leaders training 25-40 volunteers for each garden. They will also grow crops on city plots and share the produce with OFH (SCG works with the Springfield Community Land Trust, private owners and the Greene County Assessor's Office to utilize vacant city lots for farming). There will be no cost, but the program will be merit based on prior involvement as a volunteer with SCG. Evaluation and statistics for volunteers, garden participation, produce consumption and yield are currently gathered and managed by the Health Department. Measurable outcomes for training program will include: pounds produced, pounds donated to OFH, efficacy of Leader's ability to teach effective farming practices, and retention of city farmers.

Springfield Community Gardens is already effectively lowering the number of food-insecure households in Springfield by building gardens and distributing produce from Ozarks Food Harvest. During garden training, the crops Dan Bigby grows with his team of apprentice farmers, will be 'gleaned' by Ozarks Food Harvest. During the first glean session, **50% of the harvest will go to the Food Bank. During the second glean session, 100% of the harvest will go to the Food Bank as it's usually not pretty enough to sell.** Historically 30% of the overall food grown in the community gardens goes into OFH food banks. We will continue this trend as we continue to build more gardens and farm city plots.

Not only this, but this high yield training program will impact more households and grow more leaders to produce high yield crops. These crops will help to create a network of urban farms to sustain a local food hub. With the expansion of our programs, we will help create a food-centric community that focuses on connecting community members through cultivation and distribution of healthy food. education, and community based events. Through programs that encourage authentic community engagement, SCG continue to establish urban resiliency by creating a local food system with experienced farmers.

Participants in the program will include individuals and families from low-income neighborhoods, community volunteers, and college students. This year-long program will train 20 apprentice farmers.

Ten individuals will go back to SCG gardens as Garden Leaders to train 40 established volunteers in the garden. We are setting a standard for training the teacher who will build a strong network of urban farmers. The remaining ten not only apprentice other farmers but grow high yield crops on private city plots. There is no cost to participants.

Springfield Community Gardens is also in the process of helping to develop a warehouse distribution center that will be used to supply grocery stores, restaurants, schools and markets with this fresh local produce, emphasizing the use of low-income citizens who are trained in the gardens as a job force for stocking and warehouse distribution. Trained urban farmers are needed to fill not only the food bank but also the commercial distribution center. This will not only solve hunger in the Ozarks it will cause effective change.

Statistics for volunteers, garden participation and produce consumption are gathered and managed by the Springfield Greene County Health Department. Evaluation is also conducted by the Springfield Greene County Health Department.

General organizational measurable outcomes include: pounds produced at High Yield Farmer training, neighborhood produce consumption, efficacy of food education classes, number of individuals attending community classes and events, and households who report a reduction in food-insecurity.

Historically 30% of the overall food grown in the community gardens goes into OFH food banks. The High Yield Farmer program will feed more families. The crops Dan Bigby grows with his team of apprentice farmers will be 'gleaned' by Ozarks Food Harvest. During the first glean, **50% will go to the Food Bank**; 100% of the **second glean will go to the Food Bank**. We will continue this trend as we continue to build more gardens and farm city plots. High Yield Farmer training program will impact more households and grow more leaders to produce high yield crops. These crops will help to create a network of urban farms to sustain a local food hub. With the expansion of our programs, we will help create a food-centric community that focuses on connecting community members through cultivation and distribution of healthy food and education. Participants will include individuals and families from low-income neighborhoods, community volunteers, and college students. This year-long program will train 20 apprentice farmers. Ten will go back to SCG gardens as Garden Leaders to train 40 established volunteers in the garden. The remaining ten not only apprentice other farmers but also grow high yield crops on city plots. SCG is currently working with the Springfield Community Land Trust and Greene County Assessor's Office to utilize vacant city lots for farming. There is no cost to participate. Evaluation and statistics for volunteers, garden participation and produce consumption are currently gathered and managed by the Springfield Greene County Health Department. General organizational measurable outcomes for training program include: pounds produced at High Yield Farmer training, pounds donated to Ozarks Food Harvest, efficacy of Garden Leader's ability to teach effective high yield farming, and retention of city farmers in Springfield.

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Complete the project budget.

Please note: there are line items in the budget section that require detail.

Item	Total Project	Amount requested from funder
Salary and Benefits		
Contract Services		
Occupancy		
Training and Professional Development		\$8,000.00
Insurance		\$300.00
Travel		\$400.00
Equipment (provide detail)	Tiller, shovels, hoses, rakes	\$300.00
Supplies (provide detail)	Seeds, soil, compost	\$700.00
Printing, Copying, Postage		
Evaluation	Health Department	
Marketing		\$100.00
Conferences, Meetings		
Indirect Costs (%15 maximum)		
Other (provide detail)	Water costs	\$200.00
Other (provide detail)		
Total		\$10,000

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