



Grant Follow-Up Report for Organizations

Organization Information

Date: 10/29/2013

Fiscal Agent: Manchester Community Schools

Intervention Contact: Ruth VanBogelen

Title: Garden committee member

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Program Information:

Intervention Name: Community and School Gardens

Number of individuals participating in this intervention: approximately 375 people (250 students, ~ 75 community members with plots, ~ 50 customers at the farmers market)

Check List

- The Grant Funds were utilized as designated
- Funds were disbursed to vendors of equipment or services and/or to nonprofit organizations providing direct services; no cash awards were made to clients.
- This report is being submitted within the time requested in the grant award letter.

Attachments

- A complete expense report that demonstrates how the grant award was used. If this is an Interim Report, please indicate expenses to date.
- If the full amount of the grant was not necessary to provide the approved services or programs, a check from the agency is enclosed for any unused funds above \$100.
- Amount Returned - [Click here to enter text](#). Reason - [Click here to enter text](#).
- A photo(s) of the program (if appropriate). Photos will not be returned.
- Completed Photo Release Form

Narrative Responses

1. Referring to the goals described in your intervention (or any revisions submitted subsequent to the grant award), please indicate the following:
 - a. What were your major accomplishments?
 - b. What measures were used to determine effectiveness
 - c. Was this intervention effective? (Please provide supporting data)
 - d. What were the unexpected results or key learnings?

The space for the community garden was double and all plots were rented to 22 families. Two raised beds that were 2.5 feet tall were made for those with physical limitation. Both of these beds were rented early in the spring.

The spaces for the preschool garden was also doubled, and two grow stations were purchased so that students could start plants indoors in April. Five classes participated in the garden project. Every week in April and May, volunteers worked with the students on their plants. The students watered the plants all spring and summer with watering cans. The kids and their teachers picked the produce and the produce was used during the summer for snacks and lunch for the kids in daycare at the preschool.

Seven classrooms at Klager participated in the school garden and the community garden. Starting in April, volunteers gave the presentation, the three S's of gardening (Seeds, Soil, Space), to classrooms. The students prepared the garden space (28 beds at Klager and four 20x20 plots at the community garden, selected which vegetables to plant and then planted all the gardens. The Summer Camp Kids took over the gardens once school was out. The first Monday of Summer Camp, we helped the kids outline their plans. After that they took over and planned their Farmers Market. The first 2 markets were slow, but after that the students pretty much sold out every week. Their produce stand was very well done; the students had looked up nutritional information about some of the vegetables so that they could talk to customers. They also had some recipes. The students also made bags out of T-shirts for their customers. The average total donation was \$80 per week. These funds will be used to purchase items for the summer camp program (e.g., new sport equipment, etc.)

Effectiveness, the garden committee has been surprised at the community interest in the plots in the community garden. Many of the gardeners from last year had a plot again this year. Most of this year's gardeners have told us they are interested in a plot for next year. We are also pleased with the opportunities being provided for young students. The garden committee members feel strongly that engaging young kids in gardening makes them gardeners for life.

Finally, the community garden committee is growing. We added two new members this year. These members have brought great ideas to the group for next year including starting a seed bank at the library and a dehydrator for check out at the library.

2. Describe any setbacks encountered during the period of this grant
 - a. How did these setbacks impact the intervention?
 - b. How were these setbacks addressed?

No setbacks

3. Indicate if program goals were altered in any way and why.

Some plans changed. Instead of a pumpkin patch to produce pumpkins for the farmers market, we planted four 20x20 plots for the summer camp kids at Klager so they could have a farmers market at the school on Mondays. Originally, we planned to have the farmers market just for local seniors, but their interest was low. Once we opened the market up to others, many community residents enjoyed buying produce from the students.

4. Should this intervention be continued?
Yes, the interest is high in the community and the volunteer committee is still very much engaged in overseeing this intervention.
5. If yes what steps are being made to ensure the sustainability of the intervention beyond this grant period?
The committee has ideas of fund raisers to generate the funds needed to keep the garden going. Since we return all the plot rent to the school for water, funds for all the supplies purchased for the school gardens will need to be raised. We have applied for one grant (\$1000) already and likely we will apply for a Kiwanis grant again this year.
6. If your program involved collaboration with other organizations, please comment on the value the collaboration.
Once school was out, the produce from the students' garden went to the CRC food pantry or the senior apartment complex. The Farmers Market committee helped get the kid's farmers market going by using their email blast to announce the kid's farmers market. Other collaborations were with the school (Klager) and preschool (Nellie Ackerson). The school serves as the fiscal agent, but has been very supportive of the gardening program with land for the garden and water for the garden.
7. How did this intervention impact the organization responsible for implementation?
The garden committee is responsible for implementation. Receipt of funding allows this group to offer the preschool and elementary school programs (including summer programs) at no cost to the school or Community Education who organize the summer programs and preschool programs.
8. If fiscal agent is different than those responsible for implementation, use this space for feedback from the fiscal agent, if any
[Click here to enter text.](#)

Approval of Exec. Director or Equivalent [Click here to enter text.](#)
name