

2015 MID YEAR REPORT

# RAMSEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS



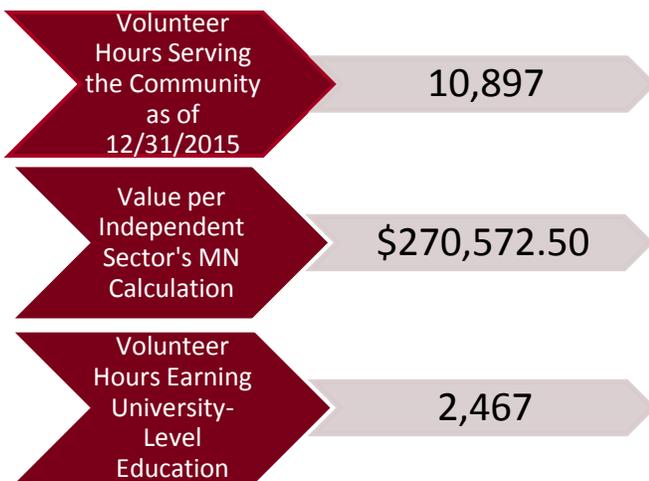
Governor Mark Dayton poses with a group of Master Gardeners and friends accepting the Farm Family of the Year award for Ramsey County, at August 2015 Farm Fest.

## MISSION

*Ramsey County Master Gardeners use University of Minnesota Extension research to teach the below messages to Ramsey County youth and adults of all backgrounds—to **improve the quality of life for all residents** and to help bridge income, education, and health disparities.*

## RAMSEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENERS DELIVER THESE MESSAGES:

- **Protect Our Water: Reduce Runoff Rainwater; Reduce Garden Chemicals; Plant Rain Gardens**
- **Reduce Waste: Compost or Recycle Organics, Properly Prune, Leave Grass Clippings on lawn**
- **Reduce Chemicals: Reduce Chemicals in Your Yard and Home; Properly dispose leftovers**
- **Grow Your Own Food: For Exercise, Good Health, and a Better Budget**



MASTER GARDENER ROGER HINTZE ASSISTS WITH POTATO PLANTS AT HAMLIN HI-RISE

## **STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY HEALTH WITH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

### **COMPOST AT HOME**

Ramsey County Master Gardeners taught thousands of residents about trying composting at home--**336 residents at the April compost bin distributions alone!** We created displays and publications and distributed them at County yard waste sites, compost bin distribution events, farmer's markets, plant sales, fairs, and community get-togethers and expositions.



POPULARITY OF MINI-COMPOST DISPLAYS DEMAND THE CREATION OF MORE! WE USE THESE TO TEACH AT MANY DIFFERENT COUNTY VENUES.



RAMSEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PATRICIA OHMANS AND INTERPRETER MANELA YOUNG TEACH MACALESTER STUDENTS TO DISTRIBUTE COMPOST AND COMPOST INFORMATION AT HMONGTOWN INTERNATIONAL FARMERS MARKET.

*Master Gardeners answered gardening and composting questions from Ramsey County Compost Site users, and encouraged them to compost both yard and organic waste. We set up special displays, answered inquiries, and distributed literature to explain and encourage organic composting--working to reduce the dumping of organics into county landfills.*

Compost site Coordinators Pat Rose and Kathy Smith

### **TAUGHT COMPOSTING AT:**

**October 21, 2014:** "Recycle Your Organics", Como Dist. 10 Community Council

**January 21, 2015:** "How to Compost." City of Shoreview

**April 21, 2015:** "Uses of Compost." MN Chamber of Commerce Webinar

**May 31, 2015:** "A Como Park Master Gardener's Guide to Backyard Composting", Dist. 10 Sunday Series

**Spring Como Park Clean Up:** "Como Composts" info table, brochures on Ramsey County Organics program and backyard composting.

**July 30, 2015:** Environmental Resource Expo, White Bear Lake. Home Composting Display

**Fall Como Art Fair:** "Como Composts" info table

**August 14, 2015:** Como Dist. 10 Ice Cream Social, "Como Composts" info table, distributed free Como Composts t-shirts, 75 ½ gal stainless steel kitchen compost buckets and brochures.

**September 2015:** Roseville Farmers Market: Displayed kitchen compost pail and brochures at each farmers market--distributing 60 Plastic kitchen buckets and 120 Ramsey County Organic Recycling starter packets!

**November 2015:** Bucket giveaway and info booth at St. Anthony Park Sustainability Fair.

**December 2015:** Information booth at the Maplewood Community Center.

## **STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY HEALTH WITH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP**

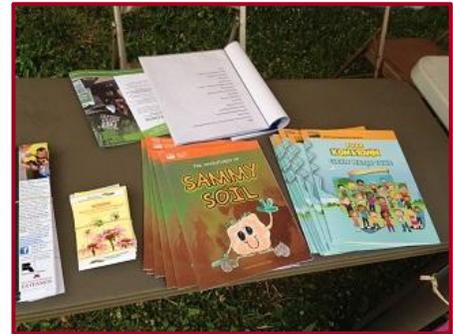
### **ORGANICS RECYCLING!**

Ramsey County Master Gardeners introduced the new Ramsey County Organics Collection program to citizens all over Ramsey County with Environmental Health. Master Gardeners spoke with about **3,000 residents**--specifically about organics recycling--at the County Yard Waste Sites alone. Our 2015 **Ramsey County Fair** Master Gardener booth featured organics recycling and composting activities--**in just one fair shift on one day, Master Gardeners taught 25 adults and kids how to organics recycle.** Ramsey County Master Gardeners distributed **200 kitchen compost bins**, with accompanying information packets, at our Farmer's Markets September 2015.

**September Organic Recycling Compost Bin Give-away!  
200 Compost Bins and 200 starter packets distributed at Farmer's Market sites!**



*THE COMPOST BINS WENT OUT THE DOOR SO FAST!*



*RAMSEY COUNTY MASTER GARDENER FAIR BOOTH--PRIZES FOR RECYCLING GAMES AND FISH FOR RECYCLABLES!*



**Frogtown Farm Backyard Farm Fair: May 30, 2015:  
500 participants utilized the zero waste services.**



## STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL HEALTH WITH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP:

### CLASSES WE TEACH AT SCHOOLS:

Ramsey County Master Gardeners teach schoolchildren everything from helping design a pollinator or vegetable garden, to assisting with the implementation of the school gardens. Many school gardens are

used for science and health curriculum planning.



FORESTWANDER.COM 1 1/ CC

### COLLABORATING WITH THE RAMSEY-WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

Master Gardeners taught youth, Kindergarten to High School, to start and transplant native seedlings and plant and maintain pollinator and environmentally-friendly raingardens for their schools, neighborhoods, and churches. Youth also participated in the Keller Creek Restoration Project.

*What a wonderful way for kids to experience nature, restoring nature, and working together with the community to improve a park.*

**Sage Passi**, Watershed District

School	Address	Grades	# of Youth	# Master Gardeners
American Indian Magnet	1075 Third Street East, St. Paul, 55106	3rd, 4th 5th	142	4
Children's Discovery Academy	433 E. Little Canada Road, Little Canada 55117	K	25	7
Farnsworth/Farnsworth Aerospace	1290 Arcade St. East St. Paul 55106	K-Middle School	306	29
L 'Etoile du Nord	1760 Ames Place, St. Paul 55106	3rd , 4th and 5th	292	26
Mounds Park Academy	2051 Larpenteur Avenue E. Maplewood, MN 55109	6th and High school	182	13
St. Peter Catholic School	2620 Margaret Street, North St. Paul 55119	4th	48	8
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>995</b>	<b>87</b>

In December of 2015, we visited students again to stratify seeds for native wildflower gardens!

### ST. PAUL CITY SCHOOL URBAN GARDEN PROGRAM

643 Virginia Street St. Paul, MN 55103

Master Gardeners, partnering with the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and St. Paul City School, implemented an Urban Garden as part of school's summer program--providing teachers and curriculum for a seven week summer program and teaching **11 Third graders** vegetable gardening and related science curriculum.



## STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL HEALTH WITH ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP:

### CLASSES WE TEACH AT SCHOOLS:

#### **MAPLEWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL**

2410 Holloway Avenue E Maplewood, MN 55109

Master Gardeners instructed students and teachers about the invasive buckthorn plant, at one of the activity stations for 120 Maplewood Middle School 7th grade students at Southwood Nature Preserve in North St. Paul.

#### **GREAT RIVER SCHOOL**

1326 Energy Park Drive St. Paul, MN 55108

Master Gardeners taught 11 students, with their teacher, to design and construct a hoop greenhouse--which thrived this summer.



PICTURE FROM GRS FACEBOOK PAGE

#### **ACADEMIA CESAR CHAVEZ SCHOOL**

1800 Ames Avenue St. Paul, MN 55119

Master Gardeners taught 3rd-6th graders to plant a vegetable garden and taught 5th-6th graders nutrition, gardening and composting--teaching 33 students and 12 staff total.



*The kids were all enthusiastic. The staff had sanitary gloves for them, but assured them that getting dirty hands is OK, and even healthy, in good soil.*

*They teamed up well and after a little introduction and instruction on why vegetables are important, got busy preparing their soil and then planting tomatoes, peppers, onions, kale, and some marigolds in the soft-sided raised beds.*

*It was obvious that the kids were enjoying themselves... Staff members, and administrators, seemed to like the whole idea. It was a good afternoon.*

~

Ramsey County  
Master Gardener  
Merlin Schlichting,  
after conducting the  
Academia Cesar  
Chavez workshop

## STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL HEALTH WITH ENVIRONMENTAL

### STEWARDSHIP:

#### **YOUTH PROGRAMS WE CONDUCT:**

#### ***MY LITTLE GREEN FRIENDS CHILDREN'S HORTICULTURAL THERAPY PROGRAM***

Children's Hospital, 345 Smith Ave N, St Paul MN  
55102

Every Monday and Thursday of the year, Ramsey County Master Gardeners work with children hospitalized in Children's Hospital, St. Paul, introducing them to plants or horticultural topics, with hands-on planting activities. This program was recognized with a **Search for Excellence Award** by the International Master Gardeners in 2013.



*[I]...visited... a young lady, 12 or 13 years, who asked specifically that we visit her, as she was scheduled to leave the hospital soon. As I entered the room the lady I thought was the mother, greeted me with a broad smile and said: "We were hoping you would visit us. We are so glad you did. Thank you." She looked over the plants and indicated a Haworthia called Windowed Boats. When I showed the plants to the girl, she stated that the lady was her grand-mother [and that] her mother was talking to the doctor... she [told me she] favored a different plant called Ghost Plant. So I said: "Why don't you plant one of each, and give the one to Grandma?" She grinned and Grandma gasped in surprise. As I was leaving she thanked me profusely and said: "How wonderful!! You really made my day. Thank you so very, very much." And to myself I thought, "And so did you make my day.*

~

Ramsey County Master Gardener  
Leonard Gloeb

## **STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL HEALTH: INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING**

### **COLLABORATIONS WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAM**

This season a significant effort was put into connecting Ramsey County Master Gardeners with University of Minnesota Extension SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) Nutrition educators to combine programming: encourage healthy eating choices and engage in the physical activity of gardening. Growing your own food affects health in many ways!

#### **WEST 7<sup>TH</sup> COMMUNITY CENTER** 265 Oneida St, St Paul, MN 55102

Master Gardeners taught **12 fifth-graders on three times**: seed planting, seedling transplanting and outdoor planting. They planted basil, tomato, collards and peppers. The kids had an opportunity to take seedlings home to plant in their own gardens. SNAP Nutrition Educator Shirley Vang connected Master Gardeners to the program and taught nutrition lessons to the students based on the plants that were in the garden.

#### **RONALD M. HUBBS CENTER FOR LIFE LONG LEARNING** 1030 University Ave W. St. Paul MN, 55104

**50 English Language Learners** who were also enrolled in SNAP, Master Gardeners taught the students how to grow, use and dry herbs over several workshop sessions. Using herbs more frequently in cooking reduces the need for sodium.



*The students loved sharing herbs that they were familiar with as well as learning, smelling, touching and growing new herbs. Thanks!*

**Erin Ostrowski, SNAP Educator**

### **NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE PRODUCE DISTRIBUTIONS**

**Dayton's Bluff Elementary, 800 Conway, St. Paul 55106**

SNAP Nutrition Educator Shirley Vang invited Master Gardeners to teach at several produce distributions.

*When talking with a 3 person family, the 12 year old girl enthusiastically nodded her head when I mentioned backyard composting...[then I] gave the girl a package of pollinator seeds. Her eyes got big as saucers and she was SO EXCITED! A man about 50 brought along a wagon and was sitting in it. He said he's planned to have a small garden but he lived in an apartment and now had to move again. I gave him a pack of seeds and he grinned from ear to ear. Sometimes it doesn't take much to make a person happy. It was pretty cool. -Ramsey County Master Gardener Ann Wolfe after volunteering at the produce distribution site.*

## **STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY AND INDIVIDUAL HEALTH: INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING**

### **BRUCE VENTO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILY CONSORTIUM**

409 Case Ave E, St Paul, MN 55130

With an Issue Area grant from the University of Minnesota, Master Gardeners were invited to collaborate with staff and students to set up a community/school garden at Bruce Vento Elementary School.



PHOTO COURTESY OF NORA FOX

[Check out the Bruce Vento Blog!](#)

["Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds, Healthy Learners", Bruce Vento Project](#)

The link above extrapolates on the benefits of a community garden. A brief summary:

1. Community Gardens enhance mental health by exposing students and residents to natural spaces to decrease stress and increase resilience against disease.
2. Community Gardens can be utilized to improve academic skills in a variety of ways, particularly in the science areas.
3. Community Gardens increase healthy living choices by increasing collaborations with neighborhood agencies and organizations, provide access to healthy food and improves the attitudes about the neighborhood in which residents live and go to school.

Master Gardeners were a critical component for ensuring the success of this project collaboration.

*The Master Gardeners were key to the school garden's creation. From the very first meetings earlier this year until the seedlings made their way into the ground, the gardeners were available to lend their expertise and advice to novice gardeners, such as myself. We appreciated having their input regarding various crops to plant, layout of each bed, and the nuts and bolts of how to create a sustainable, community garden. It was especially helpful to hear of their involvement in other school garden projects around the Twin Cities area. We cannot thank the Master Gardeners enough for devoting to their time and energy into this exciting project!*

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Nora H. Fox, MSW  
Candidate  
Graduate Research

## ENHANCE ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY THROUGH CONNECTIONS TO EDUCATION

Ramsey County Master Gardeners invite Ramsey County residents of all ages to learn and grow in knowledge by educating residents about sustainable horticultural practices through many community services, projects events, and Question and Answer information booths throughout the county.

SERVICE/PROJECT/EVENT	PARTNERING ORGANIZATION	# ADULTS	# YOUTH
RAMSEY COUNTY ASK A MG HOTLINE	U OF M EXTENSION	165	
RAMSEY COUNTY DIAGNOSTIC CLINIC	U OF M EXTENSION	172	
RAMSEY COUNTY MASTER GARDNER PLANT SALE	U OF M EXTENSION	379	
EASTSIDE, MIDWAY SEED/PLANT DISTRIBUTION	GARDENING MATTERS	29	5
TREE DISTRIBUTION AND INFO BOOTH	FRIENDS OF THE PARKS AND TRAILS	190	
SPRING PLANT SALE BEAUTIFICATION Q & A	MACALESTER GROVELAND	55	
WEST END PLANT SALE Q & A	WEST END NEIGHBORS GARDEN	25	
HAMLIN MIDWAY COMMUNITY EXPO Q & A	HAMLIN/MIDWAY COMMUNITY	30	18
HAMPDEN PLANT SALE Q & A	HAMPDEN PARK CO-OP	86	
TAMARACK NATURE CENTER DISCOVERY CENTER	CITY OF MAPLEWOOD	6	13
SOLID GROUND COMMUNITY GARDEN PLAN & DESIGN	SOLID GROUND	7	10
OX CART DESNOYER PARK FLOWER GARDEN	OX CART DESNOYER IMPROVEMENT	6	
MAPLEWOOD COMMUNITY WELLNESS EXPO Q & A	CITY OF MAPLEWOOD COMMUNITY	66	
EDGARTON COMMUNITY GARDEN- 2 EVENTS	CITY OF MAPLEWOOD	6	
MAPLEWOOD OUTDOOR EXPO AND POLLINATOR GARDEN	CITY OF MAPLEWOOD	35	
PLETSCHERS GREENHOUSE	PLETSCHERS GREENHOUSE	112	14
CLASSES WITHOUT QUIZZES	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA	16	
RAIN GARDEN MAINTENANCE-ST. PAUL NEIGHBORHOODS	CAPITAL WATERSHED DISTRICT	4	
BRING IN THE SPRING	ST. PAUL CITY SCHOOL	200 A & Y	
BRITTANY'S PLACE SHELTER FOR YOUNG WOMEN	180 DEGREES	14	



*People commented on the quality and quantity of plants [at the sale]. They... enjoyed purchasing plants they could [then] ask questions about and receive advice [from Master Gardeners]. They were definitely interested in native plants and their use. - Ramsey County Master Gardener Plant Sale Co-coordinator, Mary Parenteau*



## **ENHANCE ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITY THROUGH CONNECTIONS TO EDUCATION**

Master Gardeners staff information booths throughout the season at local Farmer's Markets.

### **ALDRICH ARENA FARMERS MARKET**

1850 White Bear Ave, Maplewood

Market meets on Wednesdays throughout the season. Master Gardeners refer residents to our free Diagnostic Clinic, conveniently located nearby and open at the same time as the market.

### **HMONGTOWN MARKET**

217 Como Ave. St. Paul

Market meets on Saturdays throughout the season. Served 250 + residents.

### **ROSEVILLE FARMERS MARKET**

County Rd B. Roseville

Market meets on Tuesdays from 8am-12noon. Served 185 residents.

### **ST. PAUL DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET**

290 5th Street East, St. Paul

Market meets on Saturdays, 7am-1pm.

1146 Residents served.

### **ST. THOMAS MORE FARMERS MARKET**

1079 Summit Ave. St. Paul

Market meets on Fridays from 1 pm to 5 pm

89 Residents served.

### **CHIPOLTE EDIBLE GARDEN COMO PARK ZOO AND CONSERVATORY**

1225 Estabrook Drive, St. Paul

Master Gardeners from Ramsey and Washington counties staff the Como Edible Garden June 13-September 27, 1-4 PM on Saturdays and Sundays. The garden is a learning/teaching experience for the public and is almost entirely edible. The produce is shared among the animals in the zoo, a community center,

1106 Residents

and a food shelf served.



MASTER GARDENERS DISCUSS ORGANIC RECYCLING AT THE ST. PAUL DOWNTOWN FARMERS MARKET

*Watching the garden grow and thrive over the summer season is so inspiring to the Master Gardeners who work there as well as the public who wander through asking questions about particular plants. This year it is spectacular and growing by leaps and bounds!*

- Ramsey County Master Gardener, Mary Beagan

**ENGAGE RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES: INVEST IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS, PROVIDE ONGOING OUTREACH, EDUCATION AND SUPPORT**

**URBAN FARM AND GARDEN ALLIANCE**

Ramsey Master Gardeners participate in the Urban Farm and Garden Alliance, a group of 6 community gardens and backyard box gardeners in St. Paul's Frogtown/Aurora St. Anthony neighborhoods that grow food and sponsors educational and social activities in collaboration with neighbors and congregations:

ASA Peace Sanctuary Garden	851 Aurora Ave. 55103
Victoria Community Garden	Corner of N. Victoria and Old Rondo Ave. 55104
Frogtown Greenhouse Garden	533 Dale St. 55103
Pilgrim Baptist Church Garden	732 Central Ave. 55104
Morning Star Baptist Church	739 Selby Ave. 55104
Lexington Commons Garden	375 Lexington Parkway N. 55105
Backyard Box Gardeners	Various locations



MORNING STAR BAPTIST CHURCH VEGETABLE GARDENS

**BACKYARD FARM FAIR, MAY 30: FROGTOWN FARM**  
**941 LaFond Ave, St. Paul, 55104**

Master Gardeners staffed an information booth. Backyard Farm Fair visitors enjoyed sustainable activities such as picking out a selection of free vegetable and herb plants courtesy of Gardening Matters, soil testing provided by the University of MN, and other exhibits: bees, hoop house building, mushroom cultivation, chicken keeping, soil quality, composting and container gardening. **200 residents** served.

*I wanted to thank [Gardening Matters] for the donated vegetable and herb plants... [for the Farm Fair]... People loved them and were surprised and appreciative they were free. One gentleman asked if he could have a second set of plants for his 87 year old neighbor. When I said yes...I made his day. We gave out 195 bags for people to put 3 plants in. It was so much fun...to bring so much joy to people. And the gift keeps on giving as they grow and eat their healthy food.*  
 -RCMG Mary Montagne

**ENGAGE RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES: INVEST IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS, PROVIDE ONGOING OUTREACH, EDUCATION AND SUPPORT**

**CASA GUADALUPANA GARDEN IMPROVEMENTS**

507 Hall Ave., St. Paul, MN 55107

Casa Guadalupana is a transitional home for Latino families. Master Gardener helped **5 residents** start their own vegetable garden.

**PROJECT FOR PRIDE IN LIVING**

Fort Road Flats, 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Snelling Ave.

This youth garden program involves 3 raised beds at a transitional housing high rise. Ramsey County Master Gardeners teach gardening, nutrition, composting and fruits & vegetables and participated in National Night Out at the site as well. Every child has an adult mentor who learns along with them. **71 youth and 56 adult residents** served.

**MIDWAY GREEN SPIRIT COMMUNITY GARDEN**

*Founded and run by volunteers, this is a place for people to garden together, build community, and beautify [the] neighborhood. Individual gardeners tend their own plots, raising vegetables and flowers for their own use. A portion of the garden, called the Community Circle, is set aside to raise food for donation to local food shelves.*-Ramsey County Master Gardener

Anna McLafferty

Taylor and Hamline Avenues, 55104

Ramsey County Master Gardeners served **15 residents** in this neighborhood community garden.

**MORE- MULTICULTURAL EMPOWERMENT**

96 E. Wheelock Pkwy St. Paul 55117

Master Gardeners worked with the Social Services program to identify

plants in the foundation planting around the facility and teach maintenance. **10 adult Karen residents** were enthusiastically taught to start and maintain a vegetable/herb garden.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PROJECTS**

Master Gardeners worked with approximately **30 community volunteers and homeowners** and their families to landscape **6 Habitat homes** in St Paul.



## **ENGAGE RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES: INVEST IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS, PROVIDE ONGOING OUTREACH, EDUCATION AND SUPPORT**

### **ST PAUL PUBLIC HOUSING COLLABORATION**

We collaborated with St. Paul Public Housing in 2015 to provide hands on support to encourage successful raised bed gardening with up to **75 adults** in several community high rises. Each high rise had a gardening committee made up of residents with a range of gardening experience and skills. Master Gardeners met with residents bimonthly, to answer questions and demonstrate gardening techniques. Resident gardeners were pleased with the help, advice, and support and have asked Ramsey County Master Gardeners to come back next year!



GARDEN TEAMS FROM MT. AIRY, CENTRAL, HAMLIN, AND RAVOUX HIGHRISES

### **DREAM OF WILD HEALTH**

16085 Jeffrey Ave. Hugo, MN

Master Gardeners taught 168 Native American youth and staff about vegetables, soils, and beneficial and negative insects throughout summer 2015.

*One of the youth from the original Cora's Kids [8 - 12 age group], is now a college student and paid intern at the farm. He says that over the years the information he learned from the Master Gardeners helped deepen his commitment to the farm and program.*

*Master Gardeners themselves teach as well as learn. My knowledge of Native Peoples and the sacred ways have helped me develop my lessons with a culturally sensitive outlook. I grow more each year.* -Ramsey County Master Gardener, Ann Aurelius

## ENGAGE RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES: INVEST IN THEIR NEIGHBORHOODS, PROVIDE ONGOING OUTREACH, EDUCATION AND SUPPORT

### **CHILDREN'S GARDEN PROGRAM**

Peace Sanctuary Garden, 851 Aurora Ave, St Paul

Master Gardeners host **weekly, summer-long, 3:30-5pm classes** at this Children's Community Garden. Each class features communal gardening time, a garden science lesson, and a nutritious garden-related snack. Children of all ages draw, plant, weed, taste, act, explore and enjoy learning about plants and bugs. **32 children and 23 adults** participated on a regularly this year!

In 2015, an anonymous donor started an endowment to provide quarterly funding to enhance the programming at this site. This year funds were used to provide food, a handwashing station, and hire a youth from the neighborhood to help maintain the garden space.



CHILDREN'S PEACE GARDEN PARTICIPANTS, MASTER GARDENERS, SUPPORTERS = FUN, LAUGHTER, LEARNING!