

Plant-A-Row for the Hungry

Share with God's people who are in need. Romans: 12:13

Plant-A-Row for the Hungry is an opportunity for Greenwich members to put their heart and hands to work in their gardens. Not only will you benefit from the sunshine and exercise, you will be growing vegetables to help feed the many hungry people in our local area. Duane Mohr is a Master Gardener and he is in charge of this Mission Project for our church.

The Garden Writers of America started Plant-A-Row for the Hungry fifteen years ago to help solve the hunger problem. They asked farmers to plant one extra row of vegetables that would be used to feed the people in their local area. Eight years ago the Prince William County Master Gardeners (PWCMGs) started to collect vegetables from local farmers' markets and provided them to SERVE (Securing Emergency Resources through Volunteer Efforts) in Manassas and ACT (Action in Community Through Service) in Woodbridge. Currently, the PWCMGs are collecting approximately 5000 plus pounds of vegetables each year for the two groups. The food banks use the fresh vegetables when in season to allow them to build up their canned vegetable stock for winter and spring.

Five years ago Duane began asking the gardeners at Greenwich Presbyterian Church to bring their extra vegetables to church and the mission team collected them and were able to supply 200 to 300 pounds of vegetables to SERVE. Three years ago Greenwich members, Jay and Sonja Yankey, started donating seedlings that were handed out to the gardeners at Greenwich and they were asked to plant one row and bring the vegetables to church for delivery to SERVE. A Wee Church Garden was started two years ago in the open area in back of the church building and they have grown tomatoes, squash and beans for SERVE. Duane plans this year to have the youth of Greenwich become involved and help visit and collect vegetables from the farmers' markets.

Last year the church collected over 700 pounds of vegetables from all of the gardeners and they are praying for a better season this year and have set a goal of collecting 1000 pounds of vegetables. This year the transplants and bean seeds will be distributed to church gardeners on May 4 at all three services. We ask that all gardeners in the church save a space in their gardens to help the Mission Committee meet the 1000 pounds of vegetables goal and help feed the hungry in our local area. The vegetables that are grown by church members are delivered to SERVE by Barbara Thomas and Kay Hinegardner.

Proverbs:14:31 ...whoever is kind to the needy honors God.