

## Dallas Youth Garden News

### 2018 Annual Summary

Our 2018 garden season was a great success. Our season began in April when we accepted applications from 13 students. Based on student applications and interviews we selected nine interns. Interns started May 3rd. Their first task was to develop a plan for their 25'x50' garden. The May weather was great for planting and plant starts provided by volunteers and the Master Gardeners were beautiful. In early June, Tracy, a nursing student at WOU, joined us as a Senior Intern. This newly created position is jointly managed and funded by DYG and Polk County Family and Community Outreach. She was a wonderful addition to our program.



After planting, the interns learned about mulching by working in teams of three to spread newspaper and straw around every plant in each garden. We have found that this is an economical way to keep weeds down, reduce pests, and conserve water. On June 22, we took a break from garden tasks and attended the Pollinators Festival at Dancing Oaks Nursery. The nursery is a wonderful place and interns got good information about Oregon pollinators from festival organizers and displays. The weather in late June and early July was very hot. Interns worked hard to keep their gardens watered. The hot weather helped get our produce harvested earlier than usual but had an adverse impact on overall garden production. Our summer construction project was to add to our production table. We completed this project in time for our open house. Over 50 supporters attended the open house this year. Interns gave garden tours and described their gardens to open house attendees.

August was a busy month. In addition to weeding, watering and harvesting, interns again did well exhibiting vegetables, herbs, and flowers at the Polk County and State Fairs. As in past years, we had our county fair booth on Friday afternoon. This was a great opportunity for our interns to tell the public about our garden and to help raise funds for next year by selling peaches.

The formal intern program ended in early September just after school started. Interns continued to help part-time to harvest throughout September and help get the garden ready for winter on the first weekend of October.

At the end of our season our interns answered the question: What is the biggest thing you learned or are doing better at as a result of this job? The answers were:

- Having responsibility
- Learning what it takes to be successful at a job
- How to work with others
- How to grow tomatoes
- Gardening can be enjoyable
- Not all things work the way you want
- How to pick cabbages and kale

We had great support this year from a variety of individuals and organizations. Without the support of our volunteers, contributors and partner organizations like Trinity Lutheran the garden would not be possible. Thank you!

Dean Anderson

Dallas Youth Garden Coordinator

#### Intern Accomplishments

- All interns successfully designed, planted and maintained their 25'x50' garden. They applied math skills to design and plant their gardens and track harvest quantities. They learned basic vegetable, flower, and herb garden production skills.
- Each intern learned basic job skills such as showing up to work on time, staying on task, workplace cooperation, taking direction, and managing vacation and sick time.
- Interns improved communication skills by giving garden tours, giving progress reports to our team and interacting with the public at our booth and open house.
- Each intern completed an education, communication, and garden improvement project.
- All interns obtained ribbons and awards for vegetable, flower or herb exhibits at the Polk County and Oregon State Fairs.
- Interns donated over 3200 pounds of produce to help feed over 300 families in our community.