

Growing Together Volunteers and Friends

2023 has been another amazing, productive year! Our spring started off quite wet which delayed our April prep work and early May planting. But the subsoil moisture and warm June and July encouraged growth which made up for the delay. We were also able to work in the gardens through the first week of October which was a bonus.

We were able to purchase our second BCS machine along with harrow and tiller attachments. Having two walk behind tractors helps better manage the early season prep work and end of season cleanup in all of our gardens. We also added wood storage sheds to the Arbors and World gardens.

This summer Growing Together partnered with LIRS (Lutheran Immigration Refugee Service) to add a new garden at Village West Park, which focuses on newly arrived refugees, appropriately named the Welcome Garden. As part of our LIRS partnership we also received a grant to hire five part-time Program Assistants (Kerry, Maura, Jenna, Megan and Jackson). They were a huge asset to our program.

With nine gardens, there are several locations and times to choose from. The Family Garden at Gethsemane is geared for parents/guardians and their children and this year we implemented a children's program at the other garden. This program included a meaningful lesson as well as fun activities.

The Gethsemane Market Garden continues to grow and produce enough that we had a very successful community market on Tuesdays in August and September. This allows excess produce to be harvested and sold, to not only partially fund the organization, but to share the excess produce by donating to area food pantries. We harvested 51,034 pounds (25 tons) of produce in our gardens. And we were able to donate over 2000 pounds this year. We thank our 300 volunteers who volunteered over 7000 hours. Plans for 2024 include an orchard at this site.

Know that we appreciate all that each one of you have contributed to make our program successful. We value all of the friendships we have made and the sense of community that working together on a common goal has created. If you have friends that would like to be a part of our community have them contact us through our website growingtogetherfm.org

None of this would be possible without your donation of time and money to support our program. Please consider a tax-deductible gift for our 2024 season in honor of your garden our our program to support supplies and equipment needs. Please make checks payable to Growing Together Community Gardens and mail to:

Growing Together Community Gardens
42 Meadowlark Lane Fargo, ND 58102

Thank you

Jack Wood Co Founder Growing Together Community Gardens