



## 2010 Annual Report

### HISTORY

Founded in 1942, the Civic Garden Center of Greater Cincinnati (CGC) is the second oldest non-profit civic garden center in the State of Ohio. In 1957, Cincinnati philanthropist Cornelius Hauck, Sr. presented the Civic Garden Center with a two-acre parcel of his "Sooty Acres" estate. The building was completed in 1960, providing a designated location to house the horticultural library, demonstration space for classes, and a central location for garden clubs and horticultural societies to meet.

Beginning in the early 1940's, members offered classes in Victory Gardening, as well as flower gardening and arranging. In 1971, "Operation Green Thumb" began to promote children's outdoor gardening. The Junior Conservation Corps, Mini-gardens and Project Grow were developed as part of the program to educate and promote the scientific and aesthetic value of plants. 1981 marks the inception of the Neighborhood Gardens Program, which is modeled throughout the rest of the country.

Today, these grounds provide a beautiful setting for the CGC offices, auditorium, patio and display gardens. With our unique collection of trees, shrubs and flowers, the Hauck Botanic Garden will continue to develop as a horticultural jewel of Cincinnati.

Throughout the years, the mission of the CGC has been to provide a horticultural resource to the city and surrounding region by providing opportunities for education, beautification of neighborhoods and environmental stewardship.

The Civic Garden Center is located in the Hauck Botanic Garden, a Cincinnati Park, at 2715 Reading Road (corner of Reading and Wm. Howard Taft) in Avondale. The CGC is a horticultural resource organized as a non-profit corporation and is open to the public.

### NEIGHBORHOOD GARDENS PROGRAM

New garden projects implemented in 2010

- Clifton Community Garden - Completed
- Rockdale Community Garden - Began site development
- Hilltop Community Garden
  - Initial site grating, water tap installed, fencing installed in 2009
  - Site lead amendment successfully completed in 2010
  - Installation garden beds, dwarf fruit tree orchard and curbside landscaping in 2011
- NEXUS Community Garden, Xavier University - Completed
- St James Children's Garden - Developing this Permaculture youth garden in 2010
- St Simon Community Garden - Technical and materials support

### Partnership Garden Projects

Community Land Co-op

- Garden in first phase of development NG Program provided technical and tool support

Concord Street Community Garden

- Garden in first phase of development NG Program provided technical, tool and volunteer support

### Gardens in Continuing Development

Projects in development, as of 2010, with construction scheduled in 2011

East End Citizens Garden \*Urban Agriculture Program

Pleasant Street Community and Rain Garden

- Continued development of Rain Garden

Riverview East Academy Sustainable Garden

- Site prep for woodland permaculture garden and invasive plant management
- Phase II of development postponed until 2011

Village of Woodlawn Community Garden (still pending)

Westwood Community Garden \*Urban Agriculture Program

### Rejuvenation Projects

Continued garden rejuvenation projects with the CGC Over-the-Rhine garden projects:

OTR People's Garden

- Expansion of community garden beds and edible landscaping

Eco Youth Market Garden

- Continued site development and planning
- Advisory Committee participation
- Work to secure garden presence as part of future real estate development

### Community Partnerships

Riverview East Academy Sustainable Garden

Ethicon Endo-Surgery finished construction of the Garden Shelter

Cincinnati Zoological Gardens

Partnership on Hilltop Community Garden will be collaborating (2009 - 2011) on beautification landscaping, water tap, fencing, and site prep. Cincinnati Zoological Gardens value approximately \$6,500.

CCAT Garden

On going management of the Center for Chemical Addictions Treatment (CATT) Center's vegetable garden - a collaboration with the Joseph House for Homeless Veterans

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful – Safe & Clean Grants

Hilltop Community Garden 2010-11

Tree Service and Solar Security Lighting 2009-10

Back Flow Replacement 2009-10

University of Kentucky Campbell County Extension, Dave Koester

Organic Gardening Class for CGDT

Fruit Tree Pruning Workshop

Donation of apple root stock to NG Program

### Youth Works

Youth Works, a faith-based ministry program designed to meet the needs and capabilities of young people, ages 12 - 19, with an emphasis on servant leadership and community service. Groups of 4 - 6 volunteers worked once a week with Corina Bullock, CGC Youth Education Coordinator, and me over a period of seven weeks on renewal of these gardens - creating welcoming places for adults and children to garden, learn and play.

### Community Garden Development Training

Our Community Garden Development Training (CGDT) is designed to help community groups gain the skills needed to develop and sustain garden projects. 2009-10 series 20 - 30 participants. 2010-11 series - 40 participants.

### Community Learning Center Garden Training

A six hour program designed for Community Learning Center staff, CPS teachers and volunteers to provide practical training in creating youth-centered pedagogical gardens for growing food, beautification and/or natural habitats. All classes are free and open to individuals interested in establishing or working in a school-based Community Learning Center garden program.

### Neighborhood Gardens Tour

Gardens at Village Green, NEXUS Community Garden, Xavier University and CGC Vegetable Garden. Over 100 people attended.

### Flavors of Neighborhood Gardens

"Fall into Fall" annual event - over 90 guests with participation of 12 community gardens.

### Green Manure Program

An educational pilot program – over a dozen gardeners participated in the pilot project. Winter Rye is used as a winter green manure crop for gardens and on farm fields to prevent soil erosion, aerate the soil, and to add nitrogen and organic matter to the soil.

### Eco Garden. Youth Market Garden Program

Provided ongoing technical support and volunteer service. Participated in Permagamics program development and site planning sessions. Conducted fruit tree grafting and planted tree mini-nursery.

### Findlay Market CHEF Program

The Corporation for Findlay Market's "Cultivating a Healthy Environment and Farmers" (CHEF) project emerged from perceived food insecurity in the Greater Cincinnati area. This project is funded by the US Department of Agriculture Community Food Projects grant program. Project begun in January 2010 and continues through August 2011.

- Liberty & Elm
- Pleasant Street Site
- Eco Youth Market Garden
- St Clair's Convent
- Westwood Northern Site

### City of Cincinnati Urban Agriculture Pilot Program

Active member of Advisory Board; participated in garden site visits, co-authored 2010 Annual Report, designed PowerPoint presentation for report to City Council.

### City of Cincinnati Urban Agriculture Program - Department of Energy Grant

City of Cincinnati Urban Agriculture Program, CGC contracted by the Office of Environmental Quality to oversee site selection and management as well as training program. A three year program funded with a Department of Energy grant. Project begun in January 2010 and continues through 2013.

- California Project
- East End Citizens Garden, Doan Project
- East End, Yehudah Project
- OTR, Eco Youth Market Garden
- Pleasant Street Site
- Northside, Martha Garden
- Madisonville Project (site active 2009, dormant 2010 in development in 2111)
- South Cumminsville Garden
- Westwood Northern Site
- Westwood Community Garden (site not available until 2011)

### Xavier University, E/RS Program: Will Allen Program

Collaboration with Xavier University and Will Allen Program, Director of Growing Power. CGC hosted a community conversation with Will Allen, local farmers, market gardeners and agriculture educators, 70 attended.

### Urban Foraging Project (Urban Orchard Project)

Fruit trees and Perennial Edible Landscaping were expanded in the following gardens:

East End Garden District, OTR People's Garden, Pleasant St. Community Garden, Race Street Children's Garden, Riverview East Academy Sustainable Garden

Fruit Tree Grafting

ECO Youth Market Garden

Public Foraging Orchards

Secured sites from the Recreation Commission to develop as part of the East End Garden District Project; site development began in summer 2010 with continued development in 2011

HJ Benken Florist & Greenhouse

Donation of 82 blackberry, blueberry, current and grapes for distribution to neighborhood and schoolyard garden projects in 2011

### Volunteers

Volunteer Groups participation:

Center for Chemical Addictions Treatment (CCAT)

Ethicon Endo-Surgery

Go Cincinnati, Crossroads Church Reach-Out Projects

Good Samaritan Hospital

Hamilton County Department of Probation

Into the Streets, University of Cincinnati, Center for Community Engagement

Joseph House

LaSalle High School

Youth Works

Xavier University, Green Urbanism Seminar

Boy Scouts of America at the East End Garden District Project with Joe Corcoran

Volunteer Statistics:

Community Service Volunteers

429 Volunteers

1652 Volunteer hours

## Community Gardener Volunteer Hours

785 Gardener Volunteers

7300 Gardener Volunteer hours

## Cumulative Volunteer Hours (Community Service & Gardeners)

1214 Volunteers

8952 Volunteer hours

## Garden Statistics

41 Active Gardens

4 Youth Gardens (designated sites, 6 additional youth gardens within Community Garden sites)

2 Partnership Gardens

47 Total Gardens

17 Cincinnati Neighborhoods

5 Outside Cincinnati: 1 Anderson Township, 1 Hamilton, OH, 1 Mason OH, 2 Covington, KY

1002 Active gardeners (plus family members)

2237 Pounds of produce donated to food pantries

2000 A total outreach to over 2000 community residents

## **YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM**

The Civic Garden Center's Youth Education programs continues to serve children in the Greater Cincinnati area through the Summer Sprouts program, offering seasonally appropriate Growing Together classes, fostering partnerships and offering a menu of Grow to Learn to Grow programs. The goal of the Youth Education programs is to reach a variety of children and increase their knowledge and interest in gardening and nature exploration by:

- Increase overall participation in the Summer Sprouts program specifically in the Race St, Northside, and East End Gardens. Advertise with after school garden club participants and local schools.
- Increase consistency of youth gardeners' attendance
- Increase quality of Summer Sprouts programming
- Increase neighborhood participation in gardens
- Secure volunteers for Compost Kids and provide quality training a child and classroom management.
- Have all supplies needed for Compost Kids – use the orientation day and time and volunteers to set up the classroom and prepare the supplies needed for the upcoming sessions
- Recruit schools for Compost Kids field trips from garden areas – in January give Hamilton County a list of schools to recruit.
- Establish lasting relationships with schools and after-school programs to have year long contact with children, foster ownership of the gardens, increase plant knowledge
- Recruit and train a reliable group of community members and volunteers from the perspective after school programs to carry on programming without my attendance, so we can increase the number of programs.
- Create curriculum that can be used from Summer Sprouts and After School Garden Clubs. Benefits of having programs planned out well before hand:

- Use lessons planned for After School Garden Clubs and Summer Sprouts to offer hour long programs for teachers in the classroom.
- Offer classes for Boy and Girl Scout troops to meet their badge requirements.
- Only offer seasonal Growing Together classes, such as Fairy House building, Natural Egg Dying, etc.

### **SUMMER SPROUTS PROGRAM**

provides gardening activities and knowledge to youth ages 3 -13 during the summer months (June to September) in Children's Gardens throughout the city. In 2010, Summer Sprouts took place in one of 6 children's gardens: Gardens at Village Green in Northside, Walnut Hills Community Garden in Walnut Hills, OTR People's Garden in Over-The-Rhine, Race St. Children's Garden in Over-the-Rhine, Pendleton Children's Garden in Pendleton and Riverside East Schoolyard Garden in the East End. We continued to partner with established childcare agencies, such as Walnut Hill Learning Center, Cincy After School at Riverview East, and Mercy St. John's Young Women's Club.

This year the number of kids dropped bringing down the contact hours as well. However, the children who participate in Race Street and Pendleton gardens have been coming for up to six years. Many of the children come every week. Summer Sprouts is a unique program because children walk out of their apartments, cross the street and garden for two hours a week on their own accord. Their parents can watch from the kitchen window or stop by to see what's going on. This year we asked children and their parents what they wanted to grow. And parents and children were both excited to harvest the crops they chose including corn, broccoli, and tomatoes.

At the Walnut Hills Branch of Cincinnati Early Learning Center, we are collaborating with Adventurous Child to install a low-budget Nature Playscape. Nature Playscapes are increasing in popularity. The Cincinnati Nature Center just built one at Rowe Woods. This playscape will be used as a model for an affordable way to create space for children to interact with nature in a safe, creative way.

This year we helped start a new garden at John P Parker as part of their summer programs. Groups from The Children's Home and Cincy After School were able to utilize the garden even when a Civic Garden Center staff member was not present. We also partnered with some summer camps including Wesley Chapel Mission and Whole Foods Summer Camp. We continued established partnerships with Riverview East Academy and St. Mercy Franciscan Young Woman's Program where programming took place in community gardens.

A chart with program information is below.

**Summer Programs Total Numbers  
2010 vs 2009**

Summer Sprouts Gardens

<b>Race St. Children's Garden</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	37	52
# contact hours	254	444
# active volunteers	2 + Youthworks	5 + Youthworks

<b>Gardens at Village Green in Northside</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	15	22
# contact hours	160	128
# active volunteers	1	2

<b>Pendleton Children's Garden</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	50	58
# contact hours	474	694
# active volunteers	3	5

<b>Walnut Hills Learning Center</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	24	37
# contact hours	216	240
# active volunteers	1 + WH instructors	1 + WH instructors

<b>TOTAL NUMBERS - SS</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	126	169
# contact hours	1104	1506
# active volunteers	7	13

Summer Programs – Contact with Groups 1-5 times - 1 hour programs – contact hours accurate, number served estimate

<b>East End Veteran's Memorial Garden/Riverview East</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	33	30
# contact hours	132	93
# programs	4 (5 <sup>th</sup> quarter)	3

<b>John P Parker</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	34	n/a
# contact hours	184	n/a
# of programs	7	n/a

<b>Mt. Airy</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	24	n/a
# contact hours	42	n/a
# programs	2 (5 <sup>th</sup> quarter)	n/a

<b>Winton Montessori</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	27	30
# contact hours	65	91
# programs	3	4

<b>Rolling Hill</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	36	n/a
# contact hours	93	n/a
# programs	3 (5 <sup>th</sup> quarter)	n/a

<b>Pleasant Ridge Montessori</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	5	12
# contact hours	5	12
# programs	1	1

<b>Ted Barry Preschool</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	22	n/a
# contact hours	37	n/a
# programs	2	n/a

<b>Glad House</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	8	n/a
# contact hours	16	n/a
# programs	2	n/a

<b>St Mercy Franciscan Young Woman's Club/OTR People's Garden</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	3	5
# contact hours	6	25
# programs	1	5

<b>Wesley Chapel Mission</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	12	n/a
# contact hours	46	n/a
# programs	5	n/a

<b>Douglas Montessori</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	28	n/a
# contact hours	56	n/a
# programs	2	n/a

<b>Whole Foods Summer Camp</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	21	n/a
# contact hours	21	n/a
# programs	1	n/a

<b>LeBlond Recreation Center</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	12	13
# contact hours	16	25
# programs	2	2

<b>TOTAL NUMBERS - programs</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	277	369
# contact hours	652	735
# programs	34	35

<b>TOTAL NUMBERS</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2009</b>
# children served	403	538
# contact hours	1756	2241

### **COMPOST KIDS**

is a collaborative effort with Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services, Solid Waste Management District. Students in grades K-6 come to the CGC throughout the year for hands-on field trips to learn about the importance of composting, how to do it, and how to put it to use.

#### **Compost Kids 2010**

April-June

<b>Number of Trips</b>	<b>Number of Schools</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Number of Adults</b>
7	6	1 – 6	104	16

Sept. – Oct.

<b>Number of Trips</b>	<b>Number of Schools</b>	<b>Grades Served</b>	<b>Number of Students</b>	<b>Number of Adults</b>
1	1	Adults	8	1

Hamilton County Solid Waste and Recycling District schedules the school for the Compost Kids field trips. Out of the 11 dates offered for Compost Kids to be scheduled in the Spring, only 7 of them were filled due to date conflicts with End of Grade Testing. In the fall, only

none of the potential 11 field trip dates were filled. Starfire did an adaption for their adult programs. There is no clear explanation for the sudden decrease in scheduled field trips. The feedback from the teachers and students regarding Compost Kids has been continually positive. In 2011 we have opened up field trips to preschool and kindergarten. We have promoted to our Grow to Learn to Grow and Summer Program partners. HCSWRD is working to make applications for the program online so it will be easier for teachers to fill out.

### **GROW TO LEARN TO GROW**

provides gardening activities and nature exploration through hands-on activities, games and crafts to students 5-15 years old. After school garden programs started in 2004 with a pilot project at Washington Park Elementary. That trial had some road blocks, such as access to the school during after school hours and getting teachers' buy in and approval for the use of their space. In the Spring of '06, CGC started with two schools which had established after school care (Boys and Girls Club and YMCA), Oyler and Riverview East and utilized children's gardens close by. The After School Garden Clubs increased that fall to four programs (Oyler, Riverview East, Emanuel Center, and Mt. Washington). During the Spring of '07, we schedule clubs every other week to meet the demand and visit more after school programs. Clubs met every other a week for an hour from April-May. During September - November, we did not pursue programming but reserved that time to recollect and plan so we could continue to meet the ever increasing interest in After School Garden Clubs. Now we have a "menu" of programs from which schools, recreation centers, scout troops, etc. can choose. This allows flexibility in Civic Garden Center staff time to visit more places throughout the spring and fall. We also ask for a suggested donation for each program, but ensure that programming will not be withheld.

The reorganization that took place Fall, 2008 had an effect on the number of children served compared to 2007. In 2009, with the Grow to Learn to Grow program established, many schools and learning sites to schedule 1-5 programs. This has increased the number of children served significantly. In 2008, 146 children were served totaling 281 contact hours. In 2009 approximately 606 children were reached through Grow to Learn to Grow programming accounting for 1241 contact hours. In 2010 we saw 523 children, but had 1,311 hours, meaning we were seeing more of the same children. Repeat exposure to garden activities makes more of an impression than a one time visit. Developing relationships and projects with schools has been fulfilling for teachers, students, and the Civic Garden Center staff and volunteers. For example, this year the Civic Garden Center worked with Westwood Elementary to build a nature trail. We worked consistently with the same, small group of students, who planned and implemented the project.

A chart with participation information is below.

**Grow to Learn to Grow Participation  
2010**

Site	# of Programs Spring	# of Programs Fall	Maximum # Children Served	Total Contact Hours for Site	Total Donation
Lighthouse Community School	1		10	10	
Pleasant Hill	3		66	108	
Nightingale Montessori	1		27	27	\$75
WEB duBois	4		31	126	
DeSales	1		24	24	
Rees E. Price	1		32	32	
Riverview East	3	2	33	165	
School for Creative and Performing Arts	2		21	42	
Westwood Elementary	6	1	18	125	100
Crossroads Childcare Center	2		16	32	
Winton Hills	1		75	75	
North Avondale Montessori	3		101	303	\$375
Mill Creek Restoration Project	1		51	51	
Gingerbread Academy	1		10	10	
John P Parker		4	34	60	
Silverton Paideia		6	45	113	
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>523</b>	<b>1,311</b>	<b>\$550</b>

## **GROWING TOGETHER CLASSES**

are nature and garden oriented classes that are designed for children and adults to learn and have fun together. In 2008, we started advertising Growing Together classes with the Girl Scouts - Great Rivers Council, Inc. Being included in their program opportunities booklet greatly increase participation in the Growing Together classes. We advertised with the Girl Scouts again in 2009 and taking into account the overwhelming interest experienced in 2008, scheduled multiple sessions for each class. We asked for a \$5 donation per child, but do not bar participation if payment cannot be made. We offered classes ranging from Natural Egg Dying to Fairy House Building to Flower Pounding to Corn Husk Doll Making.

In 2009, 278 children and 75 adults participated in Growing Together Classes. In 2010, 248 children and 84 adults attended. Each class has greatly benefitted from the help of volunteers. There is a team of 5 volunteers who consistently help with these classes.

This year we have developed a survey to assess interest in more food-based classes. While crafts are fun and interesting, connecting girls to food and gardening will only deepen the content of the classes and more strongly align classes with our mission. Depending on interest, we may offer new classes in fall, 2011. Some ideas include a Community Garden Tour, Making Stone Soup, Constructing Pollinator Houses.

## **SCHOOLYARD COMMUNITY GARDEN WORKSHOPS**

In 2009, Peter Huttinger, Neighborhood Gardens Coordinator, and I needed to respond to the increase interest in school gardens. We created and offered a Schoolyard Community Garden Workshop in March, 2009. With 18 folks from various learning centers in Cincinnati, we went through a condensed Community Garden Development Training. By going through the course, participants were eligible to apply for up to \$500 from CGC to start a garden at their learning site. Only 3 sites continued on with the application process. Riverview East Academy received funding and built a Sr. Garden; Madisonville Library deferred funding to 2010 and built a small vegetable garden; Oyer deferred funding due to construction at the school. In 2010 trained 69 teachers in a spring and fall session. We will continue to offer this training and support learning sites that would like to start gardens. To help support schools, we are working with Hamilton County Master Gardener program to develop a Gardening Angels program. Master Gardener volunteers would be a Gardening Angel to learning sites with gardens. Also, having a Schoolyard Nature Network Coordinator, might be important in the future to insure the success of school gardens through the Cincinnati area.

## **EVENTS AND TRAINING:**

Food Congress

Park + Vine – Composting Basics

Kiwanis Club in NKY

St. Simone of Sarine Compost Workshop in Lincoln Heights

CPS – LSDMC Summer Fair

US Catskeller Bar

Urban Appalachia Society

International Welcome Center

Xavier Green Club

Cancer Society and Cincinnati Health Department

Hamilton Co Fair – Go Green Tent

NKY Farm Fair

Xavier Service Learning Panel

Earth Day

Great Outdoor Weekend

Project Learning Tree training at Mt. St. Joe College

Ultimate Teacher Environmental Expo

Partnerships for the Youth Education programs include: YMCA at Riverview East Academy, Walnut Hills Learning Center, Gardens at Village Green in Northside and Mobo Bicycle Coop, Mercy St. John's Young Woman's Group, WEB Du Bois Academy, The Children's Home, Wesley Chapel Mission, Whole Foods, Kroger, Adventurous Child, The Freestore Foodbank, Youth Works, Hamilton County Solid Waste and Recycling District, Hamilton County Probation, Greater Cincinnati Environmental Educators, and Master Gardeners, ConneXions, Xavier Service Learning, University of Cincinnati Coop Program.

## **HORTICULTURE**

In 2010 the staff and volunteers of the CGC continued to maintain the following areas within the Hauck Botanic Garden and on the CGC grounds:

- Reading Road and Oak Street gardens
- Semi-formal Herb Garden
- Naturalized shady herb garden
- Serenity Garden (formerly the Morgens-Bretz Memorial Garden)
- Dwarf Conifer Collection
- Hydrangea Collection
- Pat Kipp Memorial Shade Garden
- All-America Selections Winners Annuals Display
- Peg Macneale Daffodil Garden
- Upper Terrace garden beds
- Butterfly Garden (including new "Backyard" Vegetable Garden)
- Daylily Collection, including Stout Award Winners
- Historic collections of Bottlebrush Buckeyes, spring ephemeral bulbs, Japanese magnolias, and several Beech varieties

### **Hauck Botanic Garden Projects – 2010**

- As in 2009, city budget concerns continued to limit Cincinnati Parks staff hours at Hauck Botanic Gardens. So, we once more took on the planting (using plants started by the Parks department) and management of the All American Selections garden.
- We continued to monitor hostas in our Shade Garden for Hosta Virus X (HVX) and added other shade-adapted perennials to maintain an attractive garden.
- Permanent plantings continue to evolve throughout the grounds. Ron and Jane Koppenhoefer once again donated plants by bidding on our behalf at the PHHS special plants auction.
- We continued to label noteworthy trees and shrubs throughout the garden.
- A project to label the Stout Daylily collection seemed to be successful, but will need to be repeated with labels that won't lose their letters due to outdoor exposure.
- Coordinated with the native plant advocacy group "The Wild Ones" to reduce English ivy and other undesirable aggressive species. Over the course of several days, we were able to lay down ~1,300 pounds of cardboard for weed suppression and covered that with 15-20 cubic yards of leaf mold in order to establish new beds for native plants in the southern end of Hauck Botanic Gardens.
- With the drought conditions late in the season, watering became a project in itself
- 2010 was the first year for the Vegetable Garden on the upper terrace of the Hauck grounds. It was designed as an edible landscape: demonstrating how people can incorporate food production into their existing landscape or yards without doing stereotypical row crops. We shaped French mound beds, sheet composted three

areas throughout the season, including two islands planted with perennial edibles during a permaculture workshop by Dave Jacke.

#### Serenity Garden Renovation Project

- After the fence installation project of 2009, we were excited to make huge progress in the garden itself this year. Further soil amendments, additional mulch and a great number of plants donated by volunteers transformed the space from a construction site into a more serene and contemplative garden. Additionally:
  - Dave Gamstetter arranged for the loan of a Kasuga style Japanese stone lantern from Cincinnati Parks
  - Dave also designed and prepared parts for the torii, or Japanese gate, which now demarcates the western entry point of the Serenity garden. He brought the parts here where it was assembled and erected with the help of most of the staff and several volunteers.
- Having reached a state of near completion of the entire project, we were able to celebrate the dedication of the Serenity garden in October of 2010. A group of students from The Good Shepherd Montessori School created and hung 1000 paper cranes to adorn the garden during the ceremony and thereafter.

#### Misc.

- As in the past two years, we wrote semi-regular "featured plant" blurbs, with accompanying images, which Terry published to the CGC website
- Began writing regular contributions for the "Garden Cincinnati!" blog

#### Goals for 2011

- Complete the next phase of construction in the Serenity Garden enclosure by adding a fence that extends from the Compost Kids Outdoor Classroom area to the top of the Serenity Garden water feature
- Supplement the Serenity Garden plantings with more, primarily native, ground-covering perennials (striving for fuller, lusher, Japanese inspired plantings)
- Change the path through the hydrangea garden from a straight walk to one that meanders to meet with the driveway that runs through the park
- Exchange select hydrangeas from the Hydrangea Collection garden area for the planting of daffodils in the Peggy Macneale Memorial Daffodil Garden; soil conditions in the Daffodil Garden seem to fit the cultural requirements of hydrangeas, and vice versa
- Edit plantings in Herb Garden to make it more usable and visitor friendly, including culinary and ornamental herb plantings, and create more curb appeal and visual value as an entry point
- Identify and label plants that Cornelius Hauck planted, and develop a map-brochure that will enable visitors to navigate to those plants, thereby creating a "Hauck Legacy Trail;" complete labeling of herbaceous plant collections (hosta, daylily, daffodil)
- Acquire a chipper/shredder that will facilitate leaf removal and reduction, which will speed the composting process, using funds awarded by a grant from Solid Waste Management District
- Continue work on the renovation of the native planting area with the Wild Ones, to create a showcase garden that will be recognizable within the growing season
- Aggressively remove invasive plants from the CGC grounds and Hauck Botanic Garden
- Install GLS rain garden plantings
- Improve Reading Road plantings to form a continual theme in keeping with the new GLS plantings along Oak Street and Reading Road

- Plant donation of two blight resistant American Chestnut hybrids from the American Chestnut Foundation, and raise awareness about their presence here (and in cultivation)
- Augment plantings in the Butterfly Garden to include more butterfly nectar and larval plants, and to become a Monarch Way Station

## **EDUCATION**

The Civic Garden Center continued offering classes on gardening topics for the beginner to expert in 2010.

- 88 classes and workshops were offered to the general public at the CGC
- 1423 people attended classes and workshops on gardening topics, lectures and tours of CGC gardens and 480 children attended hands-on classes designed to introduce gardening and nature
- 847 adults and 170 kids attended lectures, presentations or trainings given off site to various groups by CGC staff members.

The classes offered at the CGC reflect the need for gardening education in the areas of: home gardening, sustainable gardening, vegetable gardening/edible landscaping and general horticulture. By far the best response we received was for the classes in vegetable gardening. We offered the Master Composter series of 3 classes in the spring and fall again this year as a collaborative effort with Hamilton County Department of Environmental Services. We also partnered with the Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District, Ohio Ecological Food & Farm Association (OEFFA), and the Ohio State University Extension Agency of Hamilton County to offer some of these classes. We had much success bringing in well know speakers to give timely and expert lectures on topics here at the CGC. We have continued to have success with attendance and positive feedback on classes we offered, and have also seen an increase in requests to speak to outside groups and at other locations.

### **COMMUNITY GARDEN DEVELOPMENT TRAINING:**

Our Community Garden Development Training (CGDT) is designed to help community groups gain the skills needed to develop and sustain successful projects. Neighborhood Gardens also offers consulting services and our CGDT to a variety of non-profit organizations. The series, consisting of 34.5 hours of training, covers basic group organization, project funding, design, vegetable and ornamental gardening techniques, and garden construction. We offer classroom and hands-on training opportunities, as well as tours of successful projects to help groups generate ideas for their new gardens. NG staff works with each applicant to create a development plan, including action steps, time line, resources needed, resources and training we can offer, and where to look for additional resources. Funds and materials are awarded to groups who graduate from the program. More than 40 participants are in attendance for the 2010-2011 series.

## **GREEN LEARNING STATION**

2010 was a year of development for the Green Learning Station. Ryan Mooney-Bullock started as the full time program manager in early January to coordinate construction, marketing, website, signage, curriculum and outreach. The Green Learning Station broke ground on April 30, 2010 with a ceremony attended by First Lady Frances Strickland, City Councilwoman Roxanne Qualls, Jim Tarbell and representatives from the CGC Board and Social Venture Partners. The event drew around 100 people. Construction began in earnest

in early August. A phase 1 website was developed to provide basic information about the GLS until the full website is complete. The basic site map for the Phase 2 website was drafted. The field trip curriculum was written, as well as a detailed outline for the in-school curriculum. Signage design templates were completed and content writing begun. Discussions began about the interactive digital display with White Design Studio.

#### Partnerships

**Urban Alta Technology:** designed the monitoring system, sponsoring the cost of the system above the \$50,000 granted by MSD. They also are providing funding for a PhD student to handle logistics, as we are eager to make the most out of the data collected on our site, including developing an app around the GLS.

**University of Cincinnati, Center for Geospatial Information & Environmental Sensor Networks (GIESN):** In December 2010, Dr. Richard Beck and PhD candidate Andrew Rettig were brought on board by Michael Bolan (through a grant sponsored by him) to develop the data backbone for the sensor network and to work through the technical details of the installation. Dr. Ishi Buffam, also in GIESN, is pursuing funding to add the capability to monitor water quality coming through our stormwater system.

**Greenacres Foundation:** Ryan worked with Anne Lyon, the water quality educator at GAF, to teach rain garden professional development courses to teachers. The curriculum Anne developed through an OEEF grant is available for teachers involved in the Green Learning Station to use.

**Oyler School:** Ryan became involved in a committee to put a vegetated roof on the renovated Oyler School in Lower Price Hill. The school is interested in developing a comprehensive gardening and outdoor curriculum and wants to partner with the Civic Garden Center as an expert in the field. Oyler and CGC will be collaborating on grant writing to fund the development of outdoor learning space and a schoolyard garden coordinator position at the CGC.

**Mill Creek Restoration Project:** Educator Lora Alberto is interested in incorporating trips to the Green Learning Station into her existing school programming.

**Chuck Lohre, USGBC:** Chuck has pulled together a team of graphic designers and sign developers to assist with the development of signage for the GLS. By the end of 2010 the design templates were in place, awaiting content.

#### Backyard Vegetable Garden

2010 was the first year for the Vegetable Garden on the upper terrace of the Hauck grounds. It was designed as an edible landscape: demonstrating how people can incorporate food production into their existing landscape or yards without doing stereotypical row crops. We shaped French mound beds, sheet composted three areas throughout the season, including two islands planted with perennial edibles during a permaculture workshop by Dave Jacke. We weeded the hillside below the garden and laid down cardboard and leaf mold/mulch to try to hold back the intense weed problem on that hill. We planted some red twigged dogwoods and blueberries on that hill and plan to add plants in 2011 that are dynamic accumulators, which make excellent mulch crops. We harvested 400 pounds of produce out of the vegetable garden, which was used by staff, sold, and used for cooking classes and events like the Volunteer Dinner and Flavors of Neighborhood Gardens. Seeds saved from the garden will be given away during the Seed Exchange. Volunteer groups who helped in this garden included students from Madeira High School, Clark Montessori, LaSalle Fathers and Sons, Xavier University, Dirt Crew.

## GLS Outreach

We developed and printed a new brochure for the CGC, which features the GLS and a brochure targeted at teachers. The teacher brochure was handed out at events and distributed electronically to CPS 7-12 science teachers. An intern helped update the list of 7th grade science and high school environmental science teachers in the region for future distribution.

The GLS Program Manager attended events, tabled and/or made presentations to the following groups:

### **Information Tables:**

North Avondale Montessori, ALI Green School Open House

GCEE Teacher Expo at the Zoo

Zoo Tunes and Blooms

University Hospital Green Team Lunch Event

USGBC Green Homes Summit Kids' Carnival

### **Presentations:**

Federated Garden Club

Wyoming Garden Club

University of Cincinnati Water Sustainability course guest lecture

College Hill neighborhood association (related to school gardens)

Department of Energy take your kid to work day activities

White Oak High School composting field trip

Mill Creek Restoration Project Student Congress at Zoo (composting activities with Youth Ed)

Pleasant Hill middle school compost field trip

Region 4 OAGC

Rain Garden Teacher Workshops

Bioneers Conference field trip tour of CGC/GLS

Certified Interpretive Guide Training at Cincinnati Nature Center

## Media Attention

The Green Learning Station has been featured in stories in the Cincinnati Enquirer (twice), Soapbox Media (twice), the Cincinnati Business Courier, Fifth Third Business Beat, WVXU, Building-Cincinnati.com, Cincinnati Gardener Blog. In addition, the Enquirer did a feature piece on Edible Landscaping in the Vegetable Garden.

## Fundraising

Despite hiring a fundraising consultant, the Green Learning Station did not meet its fundraising goals for 2010. At the end of the year the marketing committee started strategizing on a "Drip Campaign" to draw attention to the project through a series of attention-getting mailings targeted to wealthy individuals, corporate decision makers and some heads of foundations. All people reached through this campaign will have a personal connection to someone affiliated with the CGC. The GLS received grants from the following foundations and government agencies, in addition to a number of individual donors:

The Greater Cincinnati Foundation: \$50,000 for educational signage

Ohio Environmental Education Fund of the Ohio EPA: \$50,000 for materials, programming, school bus transportation and mini-grants for school sustainability projects (received 2011)

MSDGC: \$430,076 pledged for construction of stormwater infrastructure and signage (received 2011)

Louise Taft Semple Foundation: \$15,000 for website (received 2011)

Michael and Carolyn Bolan Charitable Fund: \$26,000 for monitoring and data network development (PhD student from UC)

Craig Young Family Foundation: \$25,000 matching grant for Board participation in giving  
The John A Schroth Family Charitable Trust: \$25,000 unrestricted GLS  
Social Venture Partners: \$20,000 for program manager salary  
Alpaugh Foundation: \$5,000 unrestricted GLS

A total of \$173,440 came into the GLS account in 2010.

#### Goals for 2011

Raise funds for completion of capital phase and first year operating expenses: \$546,763.  
Publish curriculum in binders for teachers and field notebooks for students.  
Complete construction and open the GLS this summer.  
Increase awareness about the GLS through social media, traditional marketing and outreach events.  
Recruit teachers to participate in GLS field trip, with a goal of 60 field trips by summer 2012.  
35 school sustainability projects completed by June 2012.  
Website goes live in June 2011.  
Signage completed and installed in May 2011.  
2,000 people visit the GLS in 2011.

## **VOLUNTEER PROGRAM**

2010 was not without challenges to the volunteer program; extreme heat shortened the shift commitment of many while drought conditions increased the need for assistance on the grounds and in the gardens. Additionally, due to the economy, there were challenges to retention due to low corporate participation and conversely, many unemployed volunteers returning to work. Due to these factors, The Civic Garden Center was never more appreciative of loyal and creative volunteers who support our mission. The dedication, energy & ideas of these women, men and youth allow us to accomplish much more than the staff alone would be able to do. We sincerely appreciate all of our volunteers, for what they contribute on our behalf.

#### Young Adult Volunteers

Seventy-one students from Clark Montessori, Hughes High School, Seven Hills School, LaSalle, Purcell Marion and Madeira High Schools worked 284 hours.

The national faith-based group Youth Works volunteered with us for 10 weeks. Of the 94 volunteers, there were 23 adults and 71 youth working in our children's gardens for 344 hours.

Students from University of Cincinnati – 16 in all, worked 88 hours during the UC *Into the Streets* initiative.

Xavier's Green Urbanism Students and Service Learning volunteers contributed 130 hours.

This group of one-time volunteers totals 208; they volunteered a total of 810 hours!

#### Other Volunteer Groups Involved During 2010

The Joseph House volunteers worked 443 hours on Wednesdays and Fridays in our children's garden sites.

Workers from the Hamilton County Department of Pre-trial Services provided 718 hours of community service on the CGC grounds and in maintaining the facility.

Hamilton County Probation served 114 hours in various schoolyard and community gardens throughout the city.

On-going volunteers for day-to-day programming

- 115 volunteers contribute their time and energy on a regular basis. Many of these folks volunteer monthly or even weekly.
- Approximately 225 additional volunteers help out at various events and activities throughout the year.

The collective accomplishments of the volunteers include:

- 1193 hours were spent by 30 volunteers beautifying the grounds.
- 56 hours were worked maintaining the facilities.
- 434 hours were given by 26 volunteers answering 266 calls to the CGC/OSU Extension Horticulture Helpline with gardening questions.
- 859 hours were served by 9 women greeting visitors & answering phone calls while accomplishing a variety of administrative tasks.
- 50 hours were spent entering computer data for the Volunteer Program.
- 230 hours were directed towards editing our quarterly newsletter.
- 375 hours were given towards the education programs for youth.
- 335 hours were spent managing the outstanding collections in the Hoffman Library.
- 443 hours were served by 12 Joseph House men tending the Children's gardens.
- 175 hours were volunteered toward staffing children's programs.
- 7,528 hours were collectively given by 780 volunteers towards maintaining the common areas of the Neighborhood and Community Garden sites.
- 114 hours were volunteered by 26 people who were instructors for classes and workshops.
- 3150 hours were served by 225 people in various aspects of putting on special events and fund raisers, including: Home & Garden Show, the Plant, Herb and Hosta Sale, two wine tastings, Neighborhood Gardens Tour, Bulb Day, Flavors of Neighborhood Gardens and the Christmas Tree Sale.

In total, all volunteer efforts equaled 15,752 hours, or the equivalent of 7 1/2 full-time employees. Given the average value of \$18.46 for volunteer hours in the state of Ohio, this amounts to \$290,782 ([http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer\\_time](http://www.independentsector.org/volunteer_time)).

Our sincere thanks go to all our volunteers for their time and talents. A large percentage of our volunteers also support the Civic Garden Center with financial contributions, donate to the plant sale and various raffle opportunities, and most importantly, serve as our ambassadors in the larger community, assisting in connecting us to others of like mind.

Volunteer Training

Training and Orientation for volunteers was offered on an individual basis as well as in event related groups such as for the Home and Garden Show and the Plant, Herb, and Hosta Sale. All new volunteers were requested to attend, while veteran volunteers were strongly encouraged to attend.

## Volunteer Awards

In addition to the Volunteer of the Year Award, several new awards were introduced at the 2010 Annual Volunteer Appreciation Night. The event was attended by just under 100 volunteers who enjoyed dinner prepared by the CGC staff, live music and door prizes.

Volunteer of the Year was awarded to Dave Gamstetter for his commitment to so many CGC projects and programs; the Serenity Garden, PHHS, and the CGC's Board of Directors, to name a few.

Acorn Award presented to Ashlee Dingler for her unwavering commitment to youth education through involvement in the CGC's programs focusing on respect for individual health and their environment.

Take Root Award given to the Hamilton County Probation Group for their sustained organizational involvement in several gardens for the education, growth and betterment of it's participants.

Urban Bounty Award presented to William Hawkins for excelling in growing both his community and its harvest through cooperative gardening.

Green Thumb Award given to the members of the CGC's Quilt committee for successfully maintaining and substantially growing the CGC's Quilt related programs.

## Program Improvements

In a on-going effort to update the CGC's volunteer database, considerable effort was given to coding volunteers by ability and areas served; this will be a giant step toward improving recruiting efforts.

In 2010 the CGC applied for and won entry into the GiveCamp program; an all volunteer project which "gifts" technology needs to non-profits. In light of the overwhelming process for recording volunteer hours, we requested an online service hour recording tool which would originate from our website. By the end of the year, this tool was in place and being used by many volunteers who were grateful for a more convenient method for recording their service hours. It is our hope that this will in turn, lead to more accurate reporting.

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

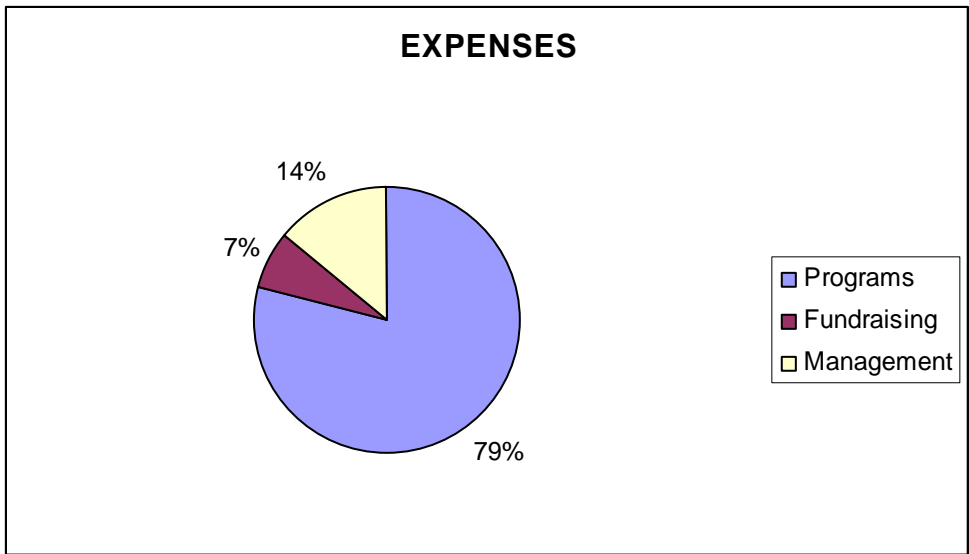
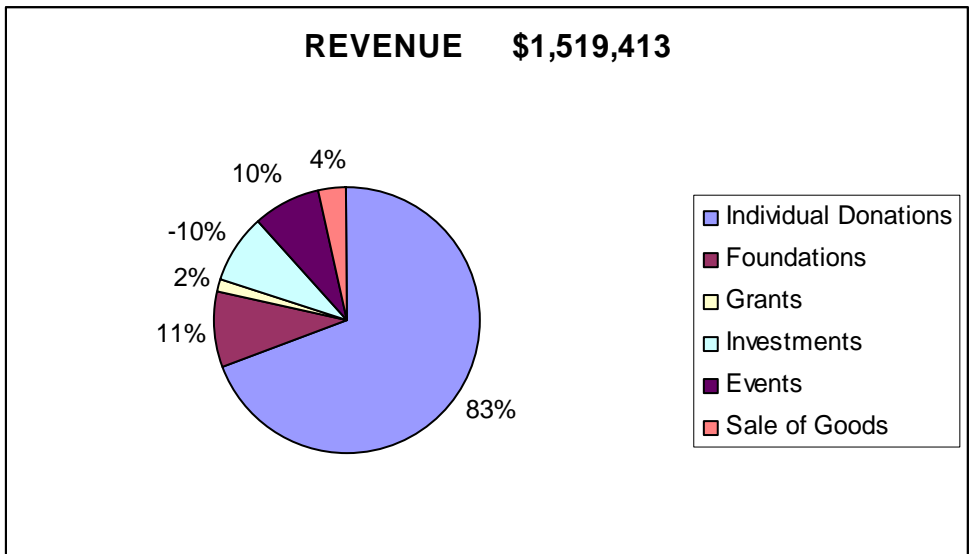
### **MAJOR GIFTS in 2010**

Oliver Family Foundation  
Meshewa Farm Foundation  
Civic Garden Center – PNC Bank Endowment  
Alison Herschede  
Margot Jacobs  
Lucile and Richard Durrell Special Fund  
Smale Civic Garden Center Fund  
LaMacchia Family Foundation  
City of Cincinnati  
Welchwood Foundation, Inc.

### **FOUNDATIONS**

Keep Cincinnati Beautiful  
Ladislav & Vilma Segoe Family  
Social Venture Partners

Charles H. Dater Foundation  
The Andrew Jergens Foundation  
State Farm Foundation  
R. C. Durr Foundation  
Chemed Foundation  
Sutphin Foundation  
Scripps Howard  
Crosset Family Fund



Net assets at the end of 2010 were \$2,086,481