

# Community Gardening Project

**Cause:** Plant a community garden and donate produce to organizations and families in need in your community.

- Step 1:** Make a Plan  
Meet with your chapter members and determine who will be doing what. Select volunteers for a variety of duties, including purchasing supplies, promoting the event, planting, and cleaning up.
- Step 2:** Identify a gardening project in your community  
For example: Work with a women's shelter, small housing complex, family, or individual in your community who can benefit from growing vegetables, fruits, or herbs. Invite the recipients of the garden produce to participate in the process so they can learn to plant, maintain, and reap the benefits of gardening.
- Step 3:** Identify any Partner Groups  
Since gardening is not always a simple project, consider identifying a youth or adult group with which to partner. Also, consider inviting a local horticultural or garden club to join in on your project.
- Step 4:** Spread the Word  
Use your Chapter Facebook page to invite family and friends to help out with your gardening project.
- Step 5:** Plant a Raised or Community Garden  
Produce from the gardens may be used to help feed the family/families tending the garden, or your chapter or partner group may decide to maintain the garden and:
- Donate the produce to a local food pantry, shelter, or women's organization
  - Create food baskets for shut-ins or less fortunate residents in your community
  - Sell the fruits and vegetables and donate the proceeds to help a women's cause or organization.

**Step 6:** Host an Educational Make-And-Take Container Garden Session  
Container gardens may be grown indoors or outside. They can be virtually any size and can grow almost anywhere. Consider church basements, community centers, parks, schools, gymnasiums, and libraries when selecting your site.

Invite a gardening expert to attend your session and ask her/him to teach participants how to make and maintain the container gardens.

Invite those benefiting from the container gardens to join your project. If container garden recipients cannot participate in the project, care instructions should accompany the garden.

**Step 7:** Be Sure to Get Plenty of Action Photos  
Be sure to take action photos of volunteers planting the garden and/or participating in the educational Make-And-Take Container Garden session and submit to your Member Engagement Specialist.

**Step 8:** Reporting  
Don't forget to report your gardening project on your chapter online report. Be sure to count member and non-member volunteer hours on your report. Volunteer hours should include travel time and any time shopping for your gardening project.