



North Dakota Junior Master Gardener Program Grants

2015 Grant Application

Project name: Faith/Journey Garden

County: Cass

Project Coordinator: Rita Leistriz

Organization: Faith/Journey Lutheran Church

Address: 650 40th Avenue East; West Fargo, ND 58078

Telephone: 701-238-4496

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1. Briefly describe your garden project including its major goals. (150 words or less)

The garden at Journey started with a pumpkin patch in 2008, 5 years before construction of the church facility. Last year, we raised 25+ varieties of vegetables, herbs, and of course, pumpkins on the roughly two acres of land available. Each year we have involved more people, more young people, and increased the variety of crop.

We strive to be

- Good stewards of the land
- Good neighbors in the developing residential neighborhood to the north, south, east and west of the garden
- Good providers of healthy food for ourselves, emergency food pantry recipients, and residents of homeless shelters and community housing in Fargo/West Fargo
- Good role models to the youth, sharing the joy of working the soil, planting the seeds and preparing the produce for mid-winter consumption

2. How will your project make a difference to its *children*? (150 words or less)

Faith/Journey congregation has 260 K-12 children enrolled. We welcome them to help with each phase of gardening. Admittedly, they love the harvest part better than the weeding and soil preparation/planting part, but we feel that the thrill of harvest is -- in part -- because they have worked with us throughout the summer. This year, our goal is to engage 10-15% of the congregation's children.

We also plan to open the gardening opportunity to and actively recruit the children (and their families) who live in walking distance of the garden. The Faith/Journey garden experience is a multi-generational effort and a chance for children to be a part of “making” things grow with their own hands and with the help and wisdom of experienced gardeners.

This year, we also plan to involve interested children in distribution of the produce at the shelters, food pantries and community housing apartments

3. How will your project make a difference in your *community*? (150 words or less)

The gardening experience has become a sort of glue that binds the participants to each other and the congregation. We work together to plan, plant, tend, harvest and then share the harvest with the congregation and the less fortunate in the community.

We are contemplating a roadside stand, and each fall we have a fall festival for the congregation and the residents in the area to harvest pumpkins and share a meal. It is a privilege to offer healthy, fresh, locally grown produce to our community!

The congregation offers free will donations for the produce they receive. The total collected from these donations is small, but it is used to supplement other church ministry expenses, and a share of these funds is also presented to local homeless shelters/food pantries for their financial needs

4. Please estimate the number of participants directly involved in the project:

Young children (3–12 years old): 12

Teens (13–17 years old): 15

Adults: 20

5. Briefly list any partners (such as 4-H, FFA, school or church youth group) that are involved and their role(s) in the project:

The Church’s Youth Group (high school), Confirmation Class (jr high), and GIFT kids (K-8) will participate in each phase of gardening, learning gardening skills from the garden team as noted above.

NDSU Extension Service Horticulture Agent: Consultation on problems and inspiration

NDSU Sheep Barn: Sheep manure

Angels’ Wings: Several of our gardeners with developmental disabilities participate in this activity as well and we offer produce and mutual support

Farm in the Dell: We receive help with garden needs (e.g., tomato supports, straw bales. advice) from this group and provide mutual support in their efforts

Local municipal compost suppliers: Compost

6. Budget

Please estimate how you plan on using the grant money if your application is accepted. Snacks, other food, labor, transportation costs, and major equipment are not allowed. See program announcement for details:

<u>Expenditures</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Peat moss (to increase yield, enhance areas of clay soil (just a start on this problem)	\$300
Plants	50
Seed	150
Fertilizer	250
Gas for tiller & tractor	150
Tractor rental	100
 TOTAL	 \$1,000

7. Reporting

Do you agree to submit a brief progress update and digital photo by June 20?

Yes No

Do you agree to complete a brief online survey and submit a digital photo by September 20?

Yes No

***For projects coordinated by organizations
outside of NDSU Extension***

**Please give this page to NDSU Extension Service staff for completion
and attach to submitted application**

Please describe your Extension office's involvement in this garden program (recruiting youth, teaching, coordinating volunteers, providing meeting space). (150 words or less)

They have done a great job with their past gardens. I will provide advice and training to the youth/adults at this garden. The amount they request will need to be adjusted. I support this grant.

I support this project and will work with the coordinator to ensure a positive educational experience for the youth.

Todd Weinmann
Name of NDSU Extension Service staff

Extension Agent NDSU
Title

Date 2-9-15

Mail or e-mail completed applications to NDSU Youth Garden Grants; Attn: Tom Kalb; NDSU-Extension; 3715 E. Bismarck Expressway; Bismarck, ND 58501; e-mail: tom.kalb@ndsu.edu.

For more information, please contact either Dean Aakre (NDSU Fargo campus; e-mail: dean.aakre@ndsu.edu; 701.231.8595); Tom Kalb (Bismarck; e-mail: tom.kalb@ndsu.edu; 701.221.6865); or Todd Weinmann (Cass County; e-mail: todd.weinmann@ndsu.edu; 701.241.5707).