



Pontiac Urban Garden Explosion

May 11, 2009

Dear Community Supporter,



In the midst of our economic crisis, growing unemployment rate, and overall upheaval here in Pontiac there is a sense of hope and optimism that is becoming contagious. This summer Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA), Lighthouse Community Development, Oakland Livingston Human Service Agency (OLHSA), Venture Inc., and Friends of Murphy Park are collaborating to bring urban gardening into neighborhoods of Pontiac through a program called **Pontiac Urban Garden Explosion**. Not only will we be providing fresh, organic, locally grown produce to the city's residents we will also be providing our youth with life-long lessons in nutrition and entrepreneurship while instilling character building virtues such as being independent, having a good work ethic, cooperation, and ingenuity.

The three sites will be located at Murphy Park, Unity Park, and in the neighborhoods where Venture Inc. has built and sold homes. The program will involve more than 200 youths and is a collaborative effort among these community-based organizations and neighboring residents.

It is our hope that you will help make our vision a reality this summer. We are seeking like-minded community supporters who are willing to make a contribution towards this endeavor. We are in need of funds to help with gardening supplies, plants, tools, fencing, t-shirts, and signage.

Suggested contribution levels are:

- Major Supporter - \$500 (prominent place on all marketing products, t-shirts, and signage)
- Community Partner - \$250 (subordinate place on all marketing products and t-shirts)
- Community Supporter - \$100 (recognition on marketing products and t-shirts)
- Friends of the Greens – \$25 (recognition)

We are more than happy to accept whatever you are able to give towards this innovative, youth-oriented project. All donations are tax-deductible.

Thank you in advance for your continuing support of our youth and our efforts to revitalize Pontiac and increase our community's quality of life.

Sincerely,

Allie Williams, Chief Fundraiser
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