



GWL Green Team

Fall 2010-Spring 2011 Newsletter



THE GREEN TEAM
Keepin' it fresh

Keepin' It Fresh

The Groundwork Lawrence Green Team is participating in a partnership with Youth Venture. Youth Venture, part of United Way, provides grants of up to \$1000 to youth around the world who have presented ideas for a social entrepreneurial project. Our Youth Venture idea involves harvesting and selling fresh crops that are cultivated by Green Team members in community garden plots.

Continued on page 2

Glow Gala

Glow Gala is an annual fundraiser event thrown by Groundwork Lawrence that offers food, fun, and changes to hear from GWL staff and includes an eco-art exhibit. Each year the Glow Gala hosts this very unique type of art exhibit that features pieces made from recyclable items that anyone can find anywhere even just in their backyard. The eco-art exhibit allows people to see “trash” in a more positive and creative light; it allows people to use these resources in a productive and artistic manner.

At Glow Gala, Groundwork Lawrence provided live entertainment by Los Sugar Kings, raffles, hors d'oeuvres, and a silent auction of the handmade art pieces. At the event the Green Team spoke to funders and other supports of GWL programs about what we do for the community. Green Team members Jannelvy and Jessica spoke on behalf of the Green Team about how it has affected their lives. Glow Gala was a great experience for us and an opportunity to meet people who support Groundwork Lawrence and the work that we put into the city.



Our plan is to develop relationships with a few business partners to share these fresh grown products with, for example, a local restaurant or bodega (a local corner store where many people in Lawrence buy their groceries). If we offer fresh and local produce to these corner stores, the hope is that residents would buy them, not only because they're close to their homes but also because it will be more affordable than buying at Market Basket and Stop & Shop.

We presented our idea in front of a panel of community members and received the full \$1000. We are excited to get the word out about this business venture in our community and increase access to fresh, affordable, locally grown produce in Lawrence. It is also our goal to educate the community members and local business owners on the importance of eating healthy.

We have started planting a few things, such as tomatoes, cilantro, peppers, and herbs. We believe this will help our community since our city lacks access to fresh fruits and vegetables and we have high rates of diet-related disease. We hope to use the skills we have developed in gardening, leadership, and education to offer a positive addition to our community. Hopefully our idea comes into action this summer.





“I enjoyed sharing what we’ve learned about nutrition with other youth.” -Kiara

Nutrition Workshop

This past winter, the Green Team took part in a three week nutrition workshop hosted by Lizette of Greater Lawrence Family Health Center. The purpose of this workshop was to give us the tools and public speaking abilities to run our own nutrition workshops throughout the city of Lawrence to different audiences. Lizette taught us games that promote physical activity, and shared a PowerPoint presentation which included the dangers of not being in energy balance and the growing rate of obesity in America. Lizette also provided us with binders which included everything we had learned so that we could take this presentation with us anywhere. The Green Team gave this workshop for the first time to the Groundwork Somerville Green Team, who provided positive feedback for the next time the workshop will be given. This summer we hope to further develop this presentation and share it with multiple youth groups

Farm School

The experience we gained from going to the Farm School was phenomenal. We learned where our milk comes from by actually milking cows! We felt like actual farmers because we woke up early to corral the cows into the barns to be milked and to take care of the chickens and the rooster by changing their water so that they could produce our eggs. But the only activity that we regretted was the process of trapping pigs and sending them to a slaughterhouse so that they could be made into food products. Also, getting to see so many stars in the sky was very inspirational because we rarely get a good view of them in Lawrence. We unplugged from our electronic devices, which was actually nice. We worked alongside Farm School staff and students to help build a shed, a trellis, bee boxes, and a brick oven, some of which will be installed in our community gardens in Lawrence. We ate great food and built amazing relationships that we’ll never forget.



“At the Farm School I was taken out of my element and experienced culture shock. Being able to milk a cow was fun.”
- Jannelvy

Earth Day

On Saturday, April 30th 2011, Groundwork Lawrence and Comcast had another successful annual Earth Day/Comcast Cares Day at the North Common Park. With the help of Groundwork Staff, The Green Team, Radio Disney, the Mayor's Health Task Force, Hands United for Lawrence, Lawrence Community Works, YouthBuild, and over 825 volunteers we accomplished more than expected. With the help of our diverse volunteer group such as students, city officials, and children we all contributed in helping the city of Lawrence get rid of 19 tons of trash. These hardworking volunteers represented more than 25 local organizations such as churches, schools and institutions. A total of 33 sites were cleaned and some schools had the benefit of having school gardens built to help students learn about healthy eating and nutrition. This successful event helped Groundwork Lawrence and the City of Lawrence reach its goal of beautifying our city. Thank You to those who came out and volunteered and keep up the good work!



“Because of Earth Day the citizens of Lawrence were able to build a bond not only with one another but the environment” - Santi

Lazarus House

A lot of the work that Green Team and Groundwork Lawrence as a whole does is around fresh food from growing it, to distributing it, to connecting with local growers, to donating it. Each summer we help farm at the Johnson's Farm in Windham, NH because the owners donate over half their food to Neighbors In Need, a network of food pantries in Lawrence.

This winter we decided to increase our understanding of hunger and hunger relief in our city by volunteering to help Lazarus House, a homeless shelter with a hot meals program and food pantry. We helped by making sandwiches for their soup truck, organizing their food pantry, and baking cookies and cakes for the residents of the house. It was an amazing experience.



