



Interfaith Food & Farms Partnership

A project of Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon

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2006 Community Food Assessment:

- Low-income people, esp. low-inc. Latinos, want local food
- Few Latinos at community gardens
- Low-inc. Latinos suffering from diet-related issues
- Faith communities have underused resources



Addressing these issues, 2007 - 2010



- Community kitchen
- Micro-enterprise development
- Wholesale buying club
- Wellness policies
- Community garden

Finding a Garden Partner

Purpose: To Empower Low-Income Neighbors by Growing Food on Faith Community Land

- Growing conditions, institutional commitment?
- How does a garden fit within your mission?
- How will you recruit low-income participants?
- How will your garden serve as a model?

Garden Budget (not incl. staff)

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Total
\$4362	\$2150	\$2150	\$8662

- Irrigation \$800
- Shed \$1000
- Tools, hoses, stakes \$100/yr
- Soil test/amendments \$400/yr
- Tilling \$250/yr
- Plants & seeds \$200/yr
- Office supplies \$200/yr
- Water \$1000/yr
- Mileage \$100/yr

Funding details

- \$20,000 total for three years (\$12 k staff)
- U.S. Dept. of Ag Community Food Projects Grant
- Presbyterian Hunger Program
- United Methodist Global Ministries
- Fundraising dinners and events

Westside Community Church



Getting Started

- Soil Tests: NPK, heavy metals, pH
- Fee structure, rules and application form
- Insurance
- Memorandum of understanding
- Do No Harm Agreement
- Local collaborators and supporters

Yr 1: 10 families, 1 donation plot, 10,000 sq ft



Quantitative Results, Year 1



- 216 volunteers
- 1100 pounds of produce donated to pantries and cooking classes
- \$3460 in in-kind donations
- 32 gardener participation days

Summer 2008



Yr 2: 20 families, 1 donation plot, 15,000 sq ft



Successes

- Collaboration with Latino community
- Steady gardener participation
- Community support
- Affordability
- Clear vision
- Links with other programs



Challenges

- Collecting information from gardeners
- Maintaining volunteer participation throughout the season
- Garden theft
- Deer

Gaining low-income participation

- Understand the causes of poverty
- Work “with” rather than “on behalf of”
- Think about public transportation, sliding scale fees, translation of materials
- Address the needs of people with disabilities
- Set realistic goals
- Talk to people, learn from each other

Handbook: “Food Sovereignty for All:
Overhauling the Food System with Faith-
Based Initiatives

www.emoregon.org/food_farms.php

