

How to get involved in the Giving Gardeners' Project

The Giving Gardeners' Project (GGP) is a service and educational program operated entirely by volunteers through the Wagner Farm Arboretum, a non-profit organization.

GGP partners with the WFA "Growing To Give" educational program and the local elementary schools to help students plant seeds, learn about the environment and understand the social aspects of giving back to a community.

Other ways you can help

Through generous donations and grants from individuals and corporations over the years, the GGP has been able to install an irrigation system that allows for a consistent and automatic watering of the plants, a 3-season hoop house for sheltering seedlings, gravel walkways, raised garden beds, blueberry and blackberry shrub enclosures.

Please ask us how your company can help support our future plans for the Giving Gardeners' Project.

Your company may schedule a "Volunteer Day" working in the garden by contacting the WFA Office Manager by phone at 908-350-7383 or email ggp@wfafnj.org



One of the Growing To Give beds.



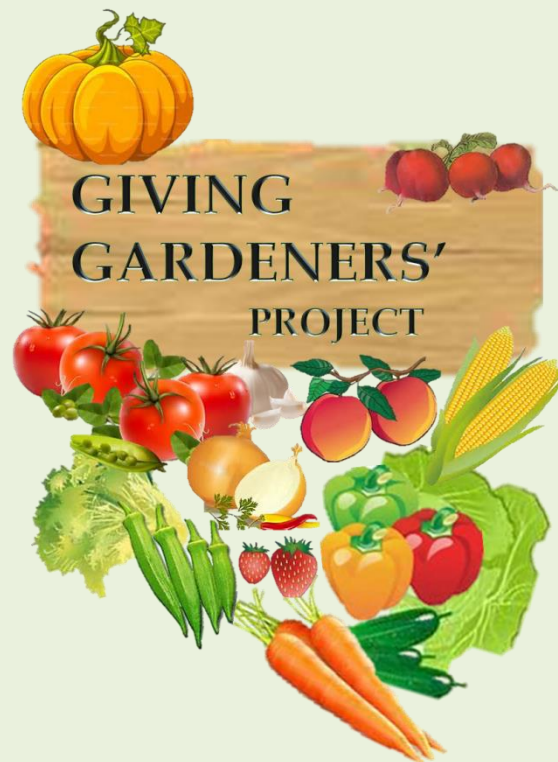
GGP garden in July



197 Mountain Avenue
Warren, NJ 07059

For information on the Giving Gardeners' Project, contact the WFA Office:
908-350-7383
ggp@wfafnj.org
Facebook:
GivingGardenatWagnerFarm

WAGNER FARM ARBORETUM



Volunteer

*in our Gardens to
Plant,
Grow
& Give!*

Our Mission

The purpose of the Giving Gardeners' Project (GGP) is to produce vegetables dedicated to feed families, individuals, and elderly who do not have the resources to acquire a nutritional, healthy, and fresh meal. Produce is distributed through agencies such as Food Bank Network of Somerset County, Star Fish, Interfaith Food Pantry and soup kitchens.

Our Organic Gardens

Within the Wagner Farm Arboretum community garden area, 69 raised garden beds are allocated to the Giving Gardeners' Project. The WFA Community Garden and the GGP gardens are grown using organic methods to manage pests and for fertilization.

Everyone can volunteer

The gardening tasks are performed entirely by volunteers from early Spring to late Fall. You may participate either with your group or independently. Groups such as churches, schools, Boy or Girl Scout troops, neighbors, friends, corporate volunteers or others could adopt a bed on their own schedule. Master Gardeners are welcome to participate to fulfill service hours.

What is the schedule?

Individuals and groups set up their own schedule. The gardens are open every day and there is always something to do.

Volunteers

Volunteers' garden tasks include:

- preparing the beds in Spring
- planting vegetable seeds or seedlings
- weeding beds and paths
- harvesting the vegetables
- clearing the beds at the end of the season
- delivering produce to area agencies
- assisting with volunteer groups
- coordinating educational programs

The Project has many helpful volunteers that can coach you on tasks that need to be done.



Harvest from Pittstown



Bounty of Peppers

From the GGP Director

"Many Americans are victims of hunger and poverty. For example, during an average week in 2015 Somerset County Food Bank Network distributed food to 160 families (201 children & 319 adults). 15 additional agencies (Food Pantries and soup kitchens) currently receive fresh produce delivered by GGP volunteers. During the 9 years since our inception in 2007, GGP distributed 191,000 pounds of fruit and vegetables produced in our garden sites and harvested in partnership with Rutgers Experimental Farm at Pittstown N.J. Our plan for future years is to expand our donations by improving efficiency and obtaining more sources of produce."

Ernie Cottrill, WFA GGP Executive Director



Ernie (GGP Director) and Marie (Food Bank Director)

From the Food Bank Director

"Upon visiting the gardens I was impressed by the gorgeous appearance of the area. When I saw the size and number of plots, I understood how so much was given. I was so impressed by the generosity of the people who worked on this project and the WFA volunteers."

Marie Scannell, Executive Director
Somerset County Food Bank Network