

October 9, 2013

To Whom It May Concern,

During the past spring, summer and fall months, the Twin Ponds Garden has provided Hopelink Shoreline with a wide variety of freshly picked vegetables, herbs and greens. During the spring and early summer, volunteers from the garden brought in a variety of lettuce, kale, chard and other greens as well as peas. As the summer progressed, the garden volunteers donated herbs, green and purple beans, summer squash, tomatoes and other vegetables typically harvested in high summer. Fall has brought winter squash, the last of the tomatoes and, once again, leafy greens. The garden volunteers were consistently sensitive to the distribution schedule at Hopelink. They timed their donations to arrive within 24 hours of food distributions so our clients could enjoy maximum freshness of the produce. Donations arrived once and sometimes twice a week.

The amount of produce grown by Twin Ponds Garden and donated to Hopelink totaled 1,407 pounds. Not surprisingly, the heaviest yields were harvested during July, August and September. Early summer brought plenty of greens, which were lighter by pound but still generous by volume.

Because the produce was always so fresh there was no waste. Hopelink was able to distribute everything that was donated. Feedback from clients was very positive. Many people mentioned their appreciation of the availability and quality of the harvest. In addition, we had many interesting discussions with clients about different ways to prepare the produce. The fresh vegetables and greens provided a nutritious boost!

Thank you so very much for your continued support of the food bank and our community.

Sincerely,



Megan Sheridan

Food Bank Coordinator

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[www.hope-link.org](http://www.hope-link.org)

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# THE EVERGREEN • SCHOOL •

September 18, 2013

City of Shoreline Parks Department  
17500 Midvale Avenue N.  
Shoreline, WA 98133

Dear Parks Department Staff,

The Giving Garden at Twin Ponds is a natural extension of the classroom for students of The Evergreen School. Through service learning projects, students get out into the neighborhood and make meaningful contributions to the Shoreline community.

During the 2012-2013 school year, fifth grade students helped weed and mulch the gardens and donated and planted seed potatoes. Our seventh graders designed and installed art work in the spring. They painted a pole with a leaf and vine design and painted a Twin Ponds community garden sign. Our Middle School Service Learning Club prepared new beds for planting and, under the direction of the giving gardens staff, students overturned the new bed and removed rocks and weeds.

Our students approached each session in the garden with a great deal of enthusiasm and they developed a true understanding that they were making a difference. We value our partnership with the giving garden volunteers. The opportunity for our students to volunteer in the Giving Garden teaches them the values of civic engagement, responsibility, caretaking and stewardship. The Evergreen School is committed to helping students build greater connections to the places in which they live and go to school through projects that make a difference in the local community.

We are very appreciative of this opportunity for our students to give back to the community.

Sincerely,

Janet Charnley  
Sustainability Coordinator  
The Evergreen School

The Twin Ponds Community Garden has had a tremendous impact on our residents this year! We had several residents who divided up the plots and grew a wide variety of vegetables. The most surprising vegetable was the two corn stocks that popped up yielding five ears of corn! I have to add that the raised beds are perfect for our seniors, who might not have been able to participate without them.

All of our residents benefited from the garden. Whether they were growing something or taking trips over to see the progress. Identifying plants in the early growth stages, or eating the fresh carrots and tomatoes. Everyone was able to benefit from the garden plots. The best was seeing one of our little old ladies gleefully sharing her fresh tomatoes with other residents in our lobby. Putting a smile on their faces as they recalled picking fresh tomatoes from what was once their garden at home. We even had one of our residents post a collage of garden photos outside his apartment to share with other residents.



Daxten Farleigh

Activities Director

Áegis of Shoreline

To the City of Shoreline Parks Department

Lakeside's 5<sup>th</sup> thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade service-learning program engages students in volunteer activities, combines service with learning in a thoughtful, planned way, and teaches civic responsibility with a developing connection to a community. Students actively learn about leadership and responsibility through individual and group projects. Lakeside seeks to develop in each student the ethos of service, ensuring that, as students serve others, they develop an appreciation for justice, diversity, compassion, the unique challenges others face, and the positive contributions others make to our world.

The fifth grade intentionally partners with a coalition that supports our neighborhood's needs. Our experiences at the Giving Garden and the Hope Link Shoreline Food Bank brought our understanding of those needs full circle.

In October of 2012, a swarm of 32 ten and eleven year olds descended on the Giving Garden. Despite the unrelenting rain, the eager bunch prepared the garden for the cold winter season by clearing everything in their path: weeds, plants, bark, stepping stones, garden signs, bricks and compost. Many students expressed their enthusiasm for the hands-on experience, the rewards of teamwork and a few reports on the challenges of an unfamiliar terrain. Our students came away from the day understanding that everyone can learn from each other, that it is never too early to have an impact, and that the common good is the responsibility of all.

During the winter season the fifth grade class organized a food drive at our middle school and later spent a day at the food bank inspecting, sorting and organizing donations in preparation for distribution to visitors of the food bank. Fresh produce harvested from the Giving Garden was also included as a healthy and organic offering to families throughout the year.

As the sun returned to the spring skies, our attention returned to the garden. The fifth grade gathered again to restore garden signs (designed by a previous cohort) with fresh coats of paint. The students also replenished the food supply by methodically planting seeds in handmade pots. We hope the garden exploded with vegetables for our neighbors later in the season.

I would like to acknowledge Jeanne Powell and Nancy Short for their dedication to the garden and commitment to community partnerships. Without their leadership and devotion, our students would not have found their place in this well-integrated network of volunteers and organizations.

We look forward to returning to the Giving Garden with a new crop of fifth grade students on October 10, 2013, to begin the cycle again.

Thank you for your support of a healthy community.

Latasia Lanier

Fifth Grade Service Learning Coordinator