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TO: RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TEAM

DATE: NOVEMBER, 2004

**RE: UW-EXTENSION OF OUTAGAMIE COUNTY AND WINNEBAGO COUNTY
COMMUNITY GARDENS 2004 YEAR END REPORT**

Another garden season: 5 total, has bloomed and been harvested at 3 Community Gardens in the Fox Cities.

What used to be an initiative is becoming an annual rite of spring and summer for many individuals and families in the Fox Valley. Every day the gardeners arrive at their garden sites to tend their plants, engage in small talk, share wisdom and develop new friendships. There are few rules at these gardens, other than to be good stewards of the environment and be willing to do the hard and satisfying work of gardening.

Each of these gardens are places of beauty and joy, powered by the people who garden there and their dedication to providing freshly grown food for themselves and others.

The past year has shown that the existence and accessibility of Community Gardens is spreading. This year several new initiatives developed, you will note these in the enclosed report. The breadth of them are inspirational and a reminder that the development of Community Gardens is well worth the patience and time given...much like the tending of new vegetation.

Perhaps one of the most rewarding experiences I have had this year, occurred when gardeners from GV/Casaloma and UW-Fox assisted me with preparing for the October 12th family gathering and assisting me with garden clean-up at the close of the gardens on October 21st. Both men and women alike, all nationalities...Chinese, Hmong, European American, Elder/Youth joined in the effort.

Though I am unable to report that the City of Menasha has made a decision about a Community Garden in their midst...I can report that Goodwill Industries (Menasha) is adding a Community Garden to their facility as part of their commitment to the Community Garden Partnership.

I am hopeful that the UW-Extension Resource Team recognizes the significance of their vision in connection with Community Gardens. That commitment is and has been essential to the vital role UW-Extension plays in the lives of individuals who live and work where UW-Extension offices are located.

I am humbled by the support of the team and by the support Karen Dickrell and Chris Kneip have provided this season and through past seasons.

I look forward to the future and your support.

Sincerely,


SUSAN RICHARDSON
Community Garden Coordinator

A program of Goodwill NCW 