

## Eastern District Funding for Innovative Programs

### Application Form

**Project Title:** Crossroads Garden Project

**Project Timeline:** Spring—Fall 2005

**Funding Requested:** \$3,014.50

**Project Lead/Grant Applicant:** John Pinkart, Marinette County UW-Extension NEP Coordinator

**Project Collaborator(s) (if applicable):** Marinette County UW-Extension, Crossroads Group Home, Marinette County Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association.

**Situation Statement:** Located on the site of a Shelter Care/Group Home Facility, the Crossroads Community Garden is maintained by an on-site caretaker who receives sporadic assistance from the frequently revolving pool of residents served by the facility. Because Crossroads is situated in a rural setting, the caretakers also contend with pest damage caused mainly by deer and rabbits. Additionally, the garden is in need of improved soil. Funding is therefore being sought to improve the quality of the garden, reduce the level of maintenance required, and make the garden less susceptible to damage caused by pests.

#### Proposal

**Project description:** The Crossroads facility is licensed as both as Shelter Care and a Group Home. As a private, non-profit organization, its goal is to ameliorate the many and varied problems encountered by the youth of Marinette County. In addition to providing a first experience with hands-on gardening for many of the resident's, the on-site garden serves other important purposes: It provides a diversion for individuals going through difficult times, lets them experience the social benefits of gardening together in a positive and productive activity, and provides a source of fresh nutritious produce at no or relatively low cost.

To this point, the garden's yearly harvest has been sufficient only to supply the facility itself with fresh vegetables. However, with increased funding support and volunteer assistance from the Northern Lights Master Gardeners Association, as well as from the Marinette County UW-Extension staff, the site facilitators expect to be able to share surplus produce with Anthony House, a similar facility associated with the Marinette Group Home Association, which oversees both projects. If the project were to exceed these needs, donations would be made to area food pantries. In addition, increased funding will provide opportunities for Wisconsin Nutrition Education Program staff to conduct on site education on the nutritional benefits of gardening and of consumption of fresh produce.

WNEP's involvement in the garden project fits comfortably into two of the program's major outcome statements. First, the *Systems and Environmental Change* Outcome states that "WNEP will work to build and enhance local systems or environments that enable and facilitate the availability of nutritious diets to food stamp households." Second, the *Food Security* Outcome states that "participants will use vegetables and/or fruits grown in community gardens to enhance family food security." Consistent with these statewide outcomes, the Marinette/Oconto County WNEP educational plan for 2005 refers to plans to utilize community

gardens in its educational programming, and as a resource to actively address local food insecurity.

**Goals:**

- Acquire funding for the Crossroads Garden sufficient to reduce the level of maintenance required (weeding, tending, etc.), and make the garden less susceptible to damage caused by pests.
- Add to the character, functionality, and the potential for experiential learning associated with the garden through the purchase of weather resistant composite lumber and materials to construct frames for raised beds, soil, mulch, and equipment.
- Provide Northern Lights Master Gardeners with the opportunity to contribute community volunteer hours through on-site gardening education and through helping with the proposed improvements.
- Expose youth at the group home to Extension 4-H, for example, by encouraging them to enter vegetables grown in the garden in the County Fair.

**Expected Outcomes:** As a result of securing this additional funding, there will be improved access to locally grown nutritious foods by residents of the Group Home, most of which come from low-income backgrounds. There will be increased opportunities for WNEP to teach about the relationship between gardening and good nutrition, as well as increased opportunities for volunteers to participate in efforts to improve the garden for the overall enhancement of the Marinette County Group Home Association.

**Evaluation Plan:**

- We will measure extent to which the Crossroads Garden increases access to locally grown produce by occupants of each of the Group Homes by comparing to amounts grown in previous years.
- We will track the number of educational programs conducted by UW-Extension and WNEP staff at the site, to the youth who participate in gardening efforts.
- We will request feedback from the Northern Lights Master Gardeners on the number of hours and volunteers who contribute to making improvements to the garden.

**Source and amounts from other funds:**

A small amount of money is set aside as part of the Group Home Association budget and carried over to provide annual start up funds for seeds and plants. Current balance is approximately \$200.00

**Signature:**

---

**Grant Applicant/Lead**



## Crossroads Garden Project Budget Breakdown

• Materials to Construct Deer Net Fencing:	
○ Netting: 7 X 300 ft roll	\$250.00
○ 40 8 ft. metal T Posts @ 3.95 each:	\$158.00
○ Plastic ties (cable ties: 120)	\$13.00
• Materials for framing 9 Raised Beds:	
○ Trex Composite Lumber	
▪ 270 Feet @ \$2.06/ft	\$557.00
○ 1 box 3 ½ inch galvanized lag screws	\$25.00
○ 2 bundles 1 ½ ft. wooden stakes	\$90.00
• In-ground Irrigation System	\$700.00
• Garden Tiller	\$250.00
• Compact Bench Scale: Ohaus ES30R Series	\$325.00
• Soil Test	\$17.00
• Composted Cow Manure	
○ 15 40lb bags @ 2.10/bag	\$31.50
• Poulan WeedEater Gas Trimmer, model PE550	\$149.00
• Seeds & Plants	\$50.00
• Garden Stakes: 25 5ft stakes @ 3.95 each:	\$98.75
• Implements, Equipment, Other Items:	\$300.00
○ Shovels, hoes, mall, hammers, garden and lawn rakes, twine, scissors, pitchfork, Miracle Gro-fertilizer	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,014.25</b>