



Community Roots Garden · 1801 Joliet Place · Oxnard, CA 93030  
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[www.communityrootsgarden.org](http://www.communityrootsgarden.org) · Tax ID# 95-3146116

December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011

Dear Friends:

I am writing to request your continued support in the coming year and to report our progress in 2011.

**First, we would like to request your continued support.** In 2012, Community Roots Garden is hoping to become a host site for young adult intern from the Abundant Table Farm Project. To do this, we need to raise \$9,000 by June. Fortunately, we have a friend of the Garden who has agreed to match donations received by January 31<sup>st</sup>. Any donations that you might be able to provide would be greatly appreciated. Will you help us to bring an intern community organizer to the garden next year who is passionate about growing, sharing, empowering, and restoring wellness to our community?

As with most community projects, we need both your time and treasure to be successful. For that reason, we have provided a list of ideas to create change in our community. See the back of this letter. Among your other New Years resolutions, we request that you consider committing to one or more of these actions.

**Second, we would like to report on our progress.** This year, we:

1. Helped to start two new community gardens in our area.
2. Donated seedlings to eight school gardens, four other community gardens, and numerous personal gardens that give to those in need.
3. Donated at least 3,015 pounds of produce this year to those in need. That's about 800 more pounds of produce than last year!
4. Strengthened our community through events such as Mother's Day in the Garden, Dia de Los Muertos and our Thanksgiving Feast.
5. Started a volunteer lunch program that pairs chef mentors with at-risk youth to cook a healthy meal for our Saturday volunteers.
6. Hosted 10 workshops on gardening and urban agriculture.
7. Partnered with Oxnard City Corps to help mentor and provide service opportunities to countless children, teens, and young adults in our community.

As you can see, the dream of a community of gardens is still alive and growing. I would like to thank you in advance for your continued support and wish you a blessed holiday season. Also, if you have not been out to the garden recently, please come by for a visit! We would love take a break to say hello and show you around.

In gratitude,

Vern Novstrup  
Board Chair, Community Roots Garden

**Community gardens provide access to land and to nutritious food for people of all income levels, beautify the city, foster community engagement, give youth opportunities for service, create places for children to learn and have fun, and help to create a more resilient community. Will you support our broader vision to build food security by growing a community of gardens through making a commitment to help us this season?**

Yes, I support these goals and commit to help through the following:

\_\_\_\_ I will share a portion of the produce from my fruit trees or home garden with local food assistance programs such as food pantries, FOOD Share, or other programs that feed the hungry.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to help start a new community garden in my neighborhood or city.  
Please contact me.

\_\_\_\_ I would like to volunteer at Community Roots Garden (or another local community garden). Please contact me with more information on how to get involved.

\_\_\_\_ I have another idea on how I would like to help (website design, grant writing skills, teaching a workshop, event planning, etc.)

\_\_\_\_ I would like to donate to Community Roots Garden.

\$20       \$35       \$50       \$100       \$500       \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please contact me, I have thoughts to share.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Contribution:**

\_\_\_\_ Check (preferred). Please make check payable to Community Roots Garden and enclose in envelope provided.

\_\_\_\_ PayPal – go to [www.communityrootsgarden.org](http://www.communityrootsgarden.org) and click on Paypal “Donate” link to make a secure, online payment.



*Community Roots Garden is a ministry of the North Oxnard United Methodist Church.*

*Contributions are tax-deductible to the fullest extent permitted by law.*

*Tax ID# 95-3146116*

***Please Return A Copy Of This Form to Community Roots Garden.***

## **Community Roots Garden Progress Report 2011**

**Growing...** *a community of gardens at our church, and, by example in the neighborhood that yield healthy, local produce.*

- This year, we had a hand in starting two new community gardens in our area, Camino del Sol community garden in La Colonia and the Dr. Manuel M. Lopez community garden on A street and 2<sup>nd</sup> street.
- We **donated seedlings** grown in our greenhouse to **eight school gardens, four new community gardens, numerous private gardens** in Ventura County.
- Next year, we want to expand our ability to grow seedlings for our garden and for start-up garden efforts by having a plant sale to raise “seed funds.”

**Sharing...** *produce with neighbors and friends in need.*

- We tracked **3,015 pounds of produce** this year that we donated to those in need. That's about 800 more pounds of produce than last year! The majority of the produce went to the Ventura County Rescue Mission, the Lighthouse women's shelter, and to local food pantries and hunger programs.
- Produce grown in the gardens of our volunteers is also donated to these and other hunger programs.
- We shared food in other ways, too, such as through our volunteer lunches, events such as Mother's Day in the Garden, Dia de Los Muertos and our Thanksgiving Feast. At Community Roots, we are learning that **sharing food creates community**, and the more we share our food with one another and those in need, the stronger our community will be.

**Empowering...** *one another –through learning, teaching and cooperating – to nourish ourselves justly, sustainably and self-sufficiently.*

- We started the **Volunteer Chef program** this summer with the help of Alyssa Jones, a nutrition intern from Cal State San Jose. Volunteer chef mentors are paired with at-risk youth to cook a healthy meal for our Saturday volunteers and their youth peers using produce from the garden. You can find a report on this transformative new program on our website's news page: <http://communityrootsgarden.org/news-2/>.

**Restoring...** *wellness – to the land, the human spirit and the community.*

- We **hosted 10 workshops** open to the public this year on topics including home composting, sheet mulching, water-wise gardening, canning, and raising chickens in your backyard.
- Over 700 volunteers of all ages worked with us in the garden this year, many of them youth with Oxnard City Corps.
- Part of restoring wellness to our wider community involves **connecting our young people with where their food comes from**, and with work that makes a difference in the lives of others.