



## Imagining Community

There was a time when neighbors chatted over backyard gardens. They worked side by side and got to know, understand and appreciate one another. This was the vision of the Community Unitarian Universalist Church gardeners who met in May 2006 to begin planning for a neighborhood garden on our church property.

We wanted to create an outreach program for neighbors who needed land for a garden, for members and friends who wished to grow their own organic produce, and for folks interested in learning how to cultivate their own green thumbs. We imagined children and teenagers, single adults and families, senior citizens and our growing Spanish-speaking population working the soil together, trading gardening tips, stories and seeds. We also envisioned flower gardens that would provide bouquets for Sunday morning services, fresh organic produce available to purchase for Sunday dinners and a source for church feasts.

## Longing for a Garden? Come share ours

- Grow your own fresh vegetables and more on large raised beds, using organic techniques
- Help provide fresh produce for local food pantries
- Learn from experienced gardeners
- Meet other local gardeners and neighbors







Community Harvest Garden began to grow in 2006 with a small group of dedicated gardeners. We learned the necessary skills as we worked alongside Plano Community Gardeners in building their garden. We opened our own space with 14 raised beds in 2007.

Our Community Harvest Garden is now composed of 19 beds, blackberry canes, a fig tree, shared herb gardens and a trailing hillside garden for squash, cucumbers, pumpkins and melons. Gardeners take turns harvesting and donating a portion of the produce to local shelters and food pantries.

We have measured our success in these ways: children have become involved in tending the gardens; we have met and worked alongside gardeners from the larger community; we have cut fresh flowers from the gardens for Sunday morning services; the variety and lush beauty of flowers and vegetables have made an eye-catching display from the road and the parking lot; more okra has grown than could possibly be eaten; and a surprise and prolific cucumber plant has sprung from the compost pile!



The bigger picture: nutritious food has been grown using organic methods; more than 1,000 pounds of food from our gardens has nourished the larger community; the improved soil has absorbed rain and filtered run-off; the increased foliage has served as air filters; and our diverse habitat has hosted beneficial insects, toads and birds. We invite you to visit our garden. It's a hoppin', happenin' place!

Proceeds from the sale of this cookbook will support expansion of the gardens. Thank you for supporting this important cause.

May the sun and rain nourish your spirit,  
may your harvests always be bountiful, and  
may your table always be surrounded with  
friends, laughter and love.

