

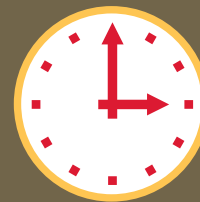
Growing Together

2016 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

Fruits and vegetables are critical for a healthy diet. According to a Feeding America survey (2014), the #1 type of food desired by Iowa food pantry participants that is not widely available at pantries is fresh fruits and vegetables. Growing Together is working to change that.

(Citation: Feeding America, Hunger in America, 2014)

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Growing Together promotes healthy food access for families with low income through a partnership between ISU's SNAP-Ed program, Master Gardener volunteers, ISU Research Farms and Iowa food pantries. In 2016, twenty-six Master Gardener volunteer teams worked with food pantries in their communities to provide them with fresh produce throughout the growing season.



90 Master Gardener volunteers committed **over 860 hours** of time to support healthy food access in their communities.



47 food pantries and meal sites received donations through Growing Together.



Master Gardener volunteer teams engaged **over twenty partners** to enhance their work.



Master Gardener teams leveraged **more than \$14,500** in local community funding.



ISU Research Farms hosted **seven model donation gardens** which were used for community education, awareness building and produce donation.



328 Master Gardeners learned strategies for effective donation gardening through continuing education opportunities.



Growing Together donated **more than 67,000 pounds** (201,000 servings or 33 tons) of produce to food pantries across Iowa.