

## FAITH GARDENS

Faith Based Gardens are similar to community gardens, with particular faith-based affiliations. Common motivations include feeding the hungry, building community, and creating multi-generational and cultural connections. Many gardens offer produce to their volunteers or congregation members in need, and several also donate produce to food pantries in the community. These gardens typically are focused on creating therapeutic spaces for individuals to relax and contemplate life, allowing for people to feel a part of something larger than themselves. Often, faith based affiliations will connect with businesses outside of the church for participation and or training opportunities: refugee farming, high-school internships, master-gardeners volunteers, etc.

### Discussion from coalition meetings:

- DBQ, Holy Cross, Dyersville: All catholic churches should be in line with us to have local, safe, pesticide free gardens
- 2537 Windoor Avenue, Dubuque: I have an extra lot on my property that has sufficient room. This area of the city has significant numbers of apts. And could enjoy and grow vegetables. – Cheryl Kramer- 563.543.6324
- Westminster Presbyterian Church: turn their gardening group into a productive contributor to food system
- St. Columbkille Catholic church: Has plenty of land and creation core theology

**Education:** educates and build awareness about hunger, training opportunities for gardening

Rescue Mission

- NEW PRACTICES + EDUCATION

Satellite @ New Hope Farm:

- ASSISTING IN POVERTY- WORKING WITH HOMELESS MEN
- ALSO WORKING ON FUTURE TALK PROGRAM THAT IS MULTI-CULTURAL

**Equity:** helps promote food security, provides food for the hungry- One acre faith garden donates to kitchens and pantries- and can help feed over 2000 families per year.

5 MOTHER HOUSES | 16 FOOD PANTRIES -> ST. STEVEN'S FOOD BANK- GLEANING PROGRAM

**Health:** therapeutic space can help relieve stress; faith gardens create opportunities for volunteerism, volunteering has been shown to develop community capacity and ownership in the community as well as increase social and relationship skills and benefit the mind.

**Natural Systems:** environmental diversity and awareness, promotes therapeutic space