

'HORSE DAYS' PROVIDE GARDEN PLOTS FOR SPRINGFIELD RESIDENTS

In a spot in Springfield, OH, where you might not expect to see draft horses plowing, garden plots were prepared for the residents of the West End neighborhood and Southwest Springfield to grow their own fresh vegetables.

The idea for 'Horse Days' came from a casual conversation between Terry Fredrich, a member of Grace Lutheran Church, and Jim Butcher, a retired draft horse trainer from Carriage Hill MetroPark.

Fredrich, leader of the Grace Garden Ministry and a professional landscaper, has been active throughout the area organizing community gardens. Along with a small group of volunteers from the community, he began planning the first garden allotments in 2010. The first garden allotments were planted in 2012 by 8 different plot owners. By the end of that season 12 different people had expressed interest in becoming gardeners and this year as many as 20 participants are expected. Garden plots are offered at no charge to individuals and families, as well as civic organizations and educational institutions. Tillage, seeds, and some tools are provided, and guidance is offered by volunteers who have agricultural and/or gardening backgrounds.

The area, known as the Jefferson Oasis is just west of the downtown area. The intent of the Oasis is to provide the education needed to reconnect the basic need for food with the satisfaction of growing it; with greater self-reliance that comes from harvesting it; with better health by consuming it, and the renewed sense of community that results from it. The project was a result of the volunteers recognizing that the residents of the southwest quadrant of the city had limited access to fresh produce.

The organizers offer 25 different types of vegetables to plot owners. For smaller plots, lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers, onions, and broccoli have been the popular choices. Larger plots are great for cooperative use by multiple individuals or families and are particularly well suited for squash, pumpkins, and sweet corn. The community garden has a long growing season, and participants will be reaping the rewards of their work from June to November.

The Harness and Hitch Group of Greene and Clinton Counties brought four teams of draft horses to the Oasis to plow the community gardens. Belgians, Percherons, and Spotted Draft horses formed the plow teams.

The community was invited to get up close and personal to the horses and watch the plowing take place. The horses drew over 150 spectators,



many of whom walked in from the surrounding neighborhood. After the plots were plowed, participants at the event were invited to a free lunch of bean soup and cornbread. Coffee and hot chocolate were provided by two area food vendors. Children's activities were coordinated by volunteers from Grace Lutheran Church.

In support of the Jefferson Street Oasis Community Garden, several notable locals solicited sponsors to raise money. Each sponsor was given the opportunity to take a turn behind the plow. The sponsors included city leaders, faculty from Wittenberg University, Springfield City Schools, Master Gardeners of Clark County (Ohio State Extension) and pastors from Grace Lutheran Church and St. Joseph and St. Raphael Catholic Parishes. Sponsors for garden plots, mentors, and volunteers continue to be recruited.

HUNGER WEBEX MEETING SERIES CONTINUES

Monthly online WebEx meeting series continues on the third Tuesday of each month.

If you were unable to take part as it happened, or would like to join the meetings, please use the link below to watch and listen to the recording of the month's edition. The link is :

<https://elcaorg.webex.com/elcaorg/lr.php?RCID=6f5f29a52b7d48eebe5fae3396d259f4>

Interested in a particular topic? Here are the topics and times within the recording where you can find them:

Orientation & Introduction: 0:00-2:02

National Volunteer Month & Network Update: 2:02-10:21

What does the ELCA mean to you?: 10:21-20:34

Congregational Story — The Rev. Jason Bense: 20:34-28:48

Fundraising Update & Planning toward Growth: 28:48-53:30

Questions & Closing: 53:30-58:10

ELCA DOMESTIC HUNGER GRANTS

The ELCA World Hunger-funded Domestic Hunger Grants support ministries that offer hope and assistance to many thousands of people who experience poverty and hunger in the United States. These grants do more than just give food to people who are hungry — in addition to immediate relief programs, ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grants fund projects in community development and community-based organizing and advocacy that strengthen the foundations of communities impacted by hunger and poverty.

In **2014**, this program allocated a total of **\$821,050** to support 384 domestic projects and programs ranging from congregational food pantries to weekend backpack programs for children to job training and living-wage advocacy campaigns. ELCA World Hunger-funded Domestic Hunger Grants make a difference.

Advocacy: 8 programs, \$15,500

Development: 65 programs, \$158,075

Organizing: 51 programs, \$116,300

Relief: 260 programs, \$531,175

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE DOMESTIC HUNGER GRANTS CYCLE AND PROCESS

ELCA will begin accepting applications for the next Domestic Hunger Grant cycle in May or June of 2015 (for funding considerations in 2016-2017). Please check back at that time.

NEW APPLICANTS: (*New applicants are organizations that **DID NOT** receive a Domestic Hunger Grant in 2014.*) These applicants must apply for funding in 2015 in order to be considered for a grant.

APPLICANTS FUNDED IN 2014: (*Effective with the 2014-2015 grant cycle, applicants are now eligible for funding across **TWO** consecutive years.*) NO APPLICATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR 2015 FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS. Rather, second-year funding will be contingent upon the successful completion of an organizational update (i.e., changes in address, contact info, etc.) and program evaluation form (i.e., progress indicators, etc.)

Organization update and program evaluation forms will be posted on the ELCA website and available beginning Nov. 1, 2014, for submission on or before Dec. 31, 2014.

APPLICANTS COMPLETING THE 3 YEAR CYCLE: (These organizations were those funded in 2013-2014, whose process **formerly required** an application to be submitted for each year of funding.) NO APPLICATIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR 2015 FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS. Each returning applicant must provide an organization update (i.e., changes in address, contact info, etc.) and a program evaluation form (i.e., progress indicators, etc.). Organization update and program evaluation forms will be posted beginning Nov. 1, 2014 for submission on or before December 31, 2014.

See more at: <http://www.elca.org/domestichungergrants#sthash.sygLDuRy.dpuf>

ELCA MALARIA CAMPAIGN Thank You

Congratulations, YOU DID IT! You have played an important role in the fight to end malaria by donating to the ELCA Malaria Campaign. Each gift is a part of the ELCA's goal of raising \$15 Million dollars by 2015. Below are some highlights of what your gift has helped to accomplished so far.

- *In Malawi, 186,000 packets of malaria treatment*
- *In Zimbabwe, Nets for 11,505 people*
- *In Mozambique, one clinic reported 0 deaths among children under 5 years*
- *In Uganda 9,382 nets distributed*
- *Tanzania, 122 health care workers trained*

But more help is needed.

Within the Southern Ohio Synod, our goal is to raise \$350,000, or about \$5.00 for every baptized member, so that we can play our role in wiping malaria from the face of the earth. We have until December, 2015 to raise money toward our goal. As of May 1, 2014 the Southern Ohio Synod congregational and individual gifts total \$167,096 or \$2.39 per member. The May 5th report, which does NOT include giving for the World Malaria Day special request, shows that 82 congregations in Southern Ohio Synod have made donations either directly to churchwide or through the synod. This list does not include private donations. Please consider one more gift to the ELCA Malaria Campaign this year and next. If your congregation has not participated in the Malaria Campaign, please consider doing so.

Check out new resources for your Malaria Campaign at www.elca.org/malaria, including **Catch the Buzz**, a curriculum for Sunday School or VBS. Stop by the display table at the upcoming Synod Assembly and pick up a Congregation Action Kit., or samples of net corsages and pipe cleaner mosquitoes. Or, go to SOS's website for more resources. Remember, malaria is a disease that is preventable and treatable and yet a child dies every 60 seconds from malaria.



Hunger Task Force Members: Rev. Henry Zorn, chair; Nicholas Bates; Rev. Glen Bengson; David Drumm; Rev. Joene Herr; Mark Mollenkopf; Rev. Mary Molnar; Rev. Mike Poole; synod staff: Rev. Jeff Wick; Susan Truchses, editor