

## Community Garden Project

As part of the Georgetown Ministerial, Georgetown Christian Reformed Church participated in a Community Opportunity Scan in 2011. As a result of this scan and the availability of a New Horizons Grant from the Federal Government, our church and St John's United Church embarked on an intergenerational project connecting seniors of both churches with youth in their congregations. The focus was to discover how volunteering shaped their faith and lives within the Georgetown community. In order to help foster relationships between youth and seniors of both groups, the idea of a vegetable garden was born.

In 2012, our first garden was tilled on the land donated by Earl Burt of Georgetown. Planting, weeding, hoeing and harvesting are done by members of both churches.

The harvests are designated to feed the hungry in Georgetown. Produce is delivered once a week to Food for Life (St John's United Church program) and to the Georgetown Bread Basket (local food bank). All seeds, plants, land and water are donated.

There are currently 15 volunteers who work in groups of three on a rotating basis, scheduled on two evenings a week from May (when we plant the garden) to the beginning of October (to do the final harvest and cleanup). A volunteer rototills prior to planting and once again, in the fall after the cleanup.

While the initiative was intended to build intergenerational relationships and volunteering, the garden now remains as a witness to cooperation of Christians in Georgetown who show in a tangible way Christ's hand in feeding the hungry. By God's grace and providence, the program continues to be a blessing for both the participants who work the garden and those who receive the produce.



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