



Community Garden Resource Center - "Eden in Indianapolis"

In 2005, Broadway United Methodist Church launched the Miracle on 29th Street initiative. The intent of the Miracle on 29th Street is to build community, build economy, and build mutual delight. Instead of creating programs for people in our community, as we, and many organizations had done in the past, Broadway created community organizer positions called "Roving Listeners," whose sole goal was to seek out and support the gifts and talents of the many residents in the Mapleton-Fall Creek neighborhood. As a result of The Miracle on 29th Street's Roving Listeners, De'Amon Harges and Josh Kupke, as well as Mark Kesling, Director of Generosity and Abundance, a large number of residents who had an interest in gardening were discovered. Their interests ranged from a simple porch garden all the way up to a city lot-sized garden with a simple greenhouse.

Eden in Indianapolis acts as an umbrella organization under which several smaller initiatives are organized. One such initiative, the Community Garden Resource Center, creates a hub for gardeners located in the southeast corner of the Mapleton-Fall Creek neighborhood. The Resource Center provides backyard gardeners, youth, and full-time urban farmers locations where they can connect, learn how to garden (or farm), improve upon their skills, and serve as teachers and consultants to others all while building a stronger local economy.

Local gardeners and entrepreneurs, Tricia Meira, Connie Alexander and Rubye Alexander have formed a development planning team whose goals include supporting and promoting local backyard and porch gardening efforts throughout the neighborhood, a community garden space with rentable garden plots, a hoop house (low-tech green house) for starting plants and extending the growing season, demonstration gardens that showcase new techniques and crops, a seed bank for the collection and sharing of seeds from locally grown crops, and educational efforts designed to strengthen skills of the participants.

The development team plans to have many components of the Resource Center up and running as early as the spring of 2010. Community support is needed from neighbors as well as others interested in urban gardening.

If you are interested in taking part in this initiative, please contact Tricia Meira at (317) 925-6218 during the day or e-mail her at communitygardenrc@gmail.com.

For all other questions, contact Mark Kesling at (317) 924-4207.