



NeighborImpact

Critical Needs. Diverse Services. Empowering Change.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 30, 200

Contact: Chloé Giselle Frommer

Agency: NeighborImpact

Telephone: 541.548-2380 x110

Fax: 541 923 2527

Web site: www.neighborimpact.org

In the Children's Garden: Businesses, Landscapers, Gardeners, Seedlings and Volunteers Needed!

Healy Heights Transitional Housing Program invites landscapers, gardeners and volunteers to support Healy Heights Transitional Housing program and its children's garden. A meeting will be held at Healy Heights, on April 18th, 5:30 p.m.

Last year, the OSU-Extension Master Gardener Betty Fowler grew seedlings for the garden while NeighborImpact volunteers and Bend Parks and Recreation members helped the children at Healy Heights ranging from ages 4 to 12, grow plants.

This year, things may be different. There will be no Master Gardener and Healy Heights has a broken irrigation system. The need is greater. So the community and businesses are invited to help out.

Continuing the program is like a 'quiet resistance' right now says Healy Heights Homework Club manager, Jill Christiansen,

“Our sources of funding have nearly dried up, yet we still would like to see this program go on. If we could at least sustain the Children's Garden perhaps through a Children's 'Harvest' Fundraiser in the Fall that brings visibility to what goes on here, maybe we could save the Homework Club as well.”

There is plenty that needs to be done though. The garden's underground irrigation system needs repair. Seedlings need to be planted and tended in advance. Soil can be tilled. And educational curriculum around gardening, plant, insect, environment and composting ought to be drawn up. So too, must dates be set for the Children's Harvest event. And invitations made.

Because the Homework Club has been losing funding over the past two years, it is hoped that featuring the children and their harvested plants will engage the community and potential donors in the survival of this important program. If nothing else, Homework Club was provided as a place to go and have an after school snack and be when parents are not around. According to an *Oregon Hunger Relief Task Force Report – 40 Ways in 5 years to Make a Difference* there are multiple consequences for having children in a community go hungry, including:

Psychological and behavioral risks: children in food insecure and hungry households are also more likely to experience considerable psychological and emotional distress: including hyperactivity, aggression, withdrawn behavior and difficulty getting along with other children.

Developmental and Academic Risks: Hunger affects children's cognitive development. They are less likely to form friendships, to explore their surroundings, to be curious to learn.

Community Costs: Child hunger can produce impairments that remain throughout life – robbing children of their natural potential. The costs to our community are great in lost productivity and participation.

Those who would like to help may contact Jill Christiansen, attend the first informational meeting on the 18th, or fill out a volunteer application at www.neighborimpact/volunteers.org, and then send it to the Volunteer Specialist, Chloé Giselle Frommer

#