

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



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- Global Food Systems
- Water and Natural Resources
- Health
- Community Vitality
- Developing Tomorrow's Leaders

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Grand Challenges: Health/Community Vitality

Title: New community garden provides healthy local food, learning, and community for all

Why is this issue important?

North Salina or the “North Town District” where the Food Bank is located is a portion of the city considered a ‘food desert’. The City of Salina Community Garden Program also recently lost one community garden location due to new development.

How did Extension address this issue?

Jason Graves, CKD Horticulture Agent partnered with collaborators and local volunteers to successfully renovate and now operate the Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank Community Garden, now in its second full year.

- This unique community garden was the result of a multi-year collaboration, which was initiated through the Dane G. Hansen Foundation Strategic Doing process.
- Funds were raised for the community garden through grants and donations managed by the CKD Extension Office.
- The garden features handicapped accessible gardening, 27 community garden raised beds, a children's garden, and the CKD Master Gardener vegetable trial program and outreach



What is the impact?

During the first two gardening seasons in 2020-2022

- Over **4,000 lbs.** of fresh produce has been donated to the food bank through the CKD Master Gardener Vegetable trial program hosted at the new garden
- Over **50** children from Cottonwood Elementary School have participated in the children's gardening program
- **21** new community gardeners utilized the new raised beds
- Handicapped accessible gardening is being made available to 4 community organizations/groups and children and individual gardeners who need handicapped accessible gardening beds
- A series of summer educational presentations in the garden provide opportunities for the gardeners and the public to learn and grow together

Kansas State University Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service
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