

Other Food Projects

September 9, 2011

Discussion with [Tim Goldman](#)

Background: Tim works with one of a number of local “Food Pantry Gardens” locally that are focused on raising fresh produce for distribution at food pantries and other emergency food providers. His garden, the Faith and Grace Garden at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church in West Des Moines, is working on a project to turn green waste into fertilizer and package and sell it.

The project would involve Dowling Catholic High School students, (compensated) homeless individuals and volunteers. Green waste would be digested with worm composting, and the work castings bagged in teabags, which could later be mixed with water to make a tea that can be sprayed as a garden fertilizer.

Tim’s challenges include finding supervisors, locations for raising garden seedlings, and retail establishment for selling the teabags. Stakeholders provided the following advice:

- Contact school FFA chapters to lead seedling efforts
- Contact churches who have faith gardens as likely locations to sell the teabags
- Contact the new Tallgrass Coop as a possible retail outlet
- ISU Extension Master Gardeners might be open to a role in some function
- Food Corps workers could be enlisted for a variety of roles

December 9, 2011 (with March 9, 2012 updates)

Discussion Regarding Summer Food Service Program [Sandy Huisman](#)

Background: Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) serves meals to children during the summer when they are out of school and not getting lunch. In order for a neighborhood to qualify to have a site, 50% or more of the children in the neighborhood must qualify for free or reduced lunch, but anyone under age 18 may eat a meal. Des Moines has a low participation rate and some ideas were suggested as to why that is:

- Perception that the program is misused by non-needy children
- Only children can partake in meals

Possible solutions:

- Include activities for children and parents before the meal
- Improve promotion/advertisement

As of March 9th sites for summer ’12 were being chosen. Promotion is focus right now. Flyers are going out in backpack buddies. Flyer will be sent to stakeholders so that they can post them around neighborhoods or promote at their organizations. Because of staffing, the program must rely on signs in the parks/sites rather than informing people in the park of the program in person.

March 9, 2011
Hope for the Hungry Conference – [Bonnie Eske](#)

Background: This is an annual conference and the 2012 conference is scheduled for Saturday November 10 in Downtown Des Moines at St. Johns. DMARC is helping with the organization. The focus of the 2012 conference will be on programs that affect children and hunger. They are looking for speakers and presenters at this point. The conference will be shorter this year than in years past in hopes of keeping people more attentive all day. The question was brought to the group of how to attract low income parents?

- Reach out to organizations in the area of the conference
- Get a panel of people from the neighborhood to describe the situation
- Need something for kids to do to get parents to go
- Transportation is an issue, being downtown will help (should publicize bus routes)
- Parents may be working on Saturday because low income parents are less likely to keep a Monday-Friday schedule
- Materials need to be written at a 6th grade (or lower) reading level