Continued Success! The 2019 Watertown Urban Mission Garden

Several Jefferson County non-profit community organizations have continued their partnership to provide fresh produce to the Urban Mission Food Pantry.

As the largest food pantry in Jefferson County, the Urban Mission food pantry in the City of Watertown is open to all county residents in need. On a monthly basis, an average of 520 families are served. In 2018, the pantry provided food packages equivalent to 226,485 meals. Fresh produce is always in short supply.

CCE of Jefferson County teamed up with the Watertown Urban Mission and other local non-profits for a third year to continue the accomplishments of the garden. Master Gardener Volunteers do all planting, maintenance and harvest in the garden. Volunteers from The ARC of Jefferson and St. Lawrence Counties assist with weeding on a weekly basis. The Chapin Living Waters Foundation provides the garden site and irrigation equipment. Hallett’s Greenhouse and Florist in Adams, and Rhode’s Greenhouse in Henderson provided many of the transplants.

Additional funding for the garden was provided by the Asbury Methodist Church in Watertown and through grants from Eat Smart New York (ESNY) and Adopting Healthy Habits.

In 2019 over 1,500 pounds of fresh, organic produce was delivered to the Urban Mission Food Pantry. According to Dawn Cole, Director of the Watertown Urban Mission, “the Mission Garden is more than a source of locally-grown produce; it’s a source of excitement for those who visit the pantry in times of need. It’s not uncommon for pantry visitors, volunteers and staff to engage in conversation about the health benefits of radishes or exchange zucchini recipes. The Mission Garden has greatly enhanced our nutritional offerings and the experience of visiting the pantry.”

Master Gardener Volunteers