



Valley Stewardship Network Food & Farm Initiative's Kickapoo Harvest: Gleaning for Healthy Communities

Summer 2009 PILOT PROJECT SCOPE

Project Description

Kickapoo Harvest: Gleaning for Healthy Communities is a grass-roots initiative aimed at getting healthy, locally produced food into the hands and mouths of those who need it most.

The basic premise of the summer 2009 pilot project is to engage area youth in supervised harvesting of excess "un-marketable" produce and fruit grown on area farms that will then be distributed to interested, low-income residents of Park View Manor, a low-income apartment complex in downtown Viroqua. Harvested produce and fruit will be cleaned and nicely boxed by volunteers before being distributed to Park View Manor residents. In addition, area chefs will offer cooking demonstrations and recipes to interested residents within 48 hours of receiving their gleaned food boxes. The pilot project will be implemented in the summer months of July-October, 2009. Additional gleaned food items will be distributed to area food pantries and processed for use in school lunch menus throughout the 2009-2010 school year.

Volunteer Description and Summary

The Valley Stewardship Network (VSN) is actively seeking adult and youth (ages 12+) volunteers to assist in monthly gleaning events during the 2009 summer months of July, August, September and October. The gleaning dates are as follows:

- July 17
- August 14
- September 18
- October 16

A gleaning day will consist of one group of volunteers harvesting fresh produce and fruit from 2-3 area farms in the morning hours while a second group of volunteers will help during the afternoon hours with the washing and packing of the gleaned food items into nice, family food boxes that will be distributed to Park View Manor residents and area food pantries.

Each gleaning group (one group - harvesting and one group - washing/packing) will consist of at least 5 youth volunteers and 2 adult volunteers. Members of the VSN Food & Farm Initiative Steering Committee will be on-hand to assist and direct the volunteer groups.

The harvesting volunteers should expect to work 4-5 hours and each volunteer should bring their own water, gloves, closed toe shoes, sunscreen, and sun-hat. Volunteers will meet at the Viroqua High School before carpooling to the participating farm(s).

The washing/packing volunteers should expect to work 4-5 hours and each volunteer should bring their own water, gloves, and closed toe shoes. Volunteers will meet at the Viroqua High School and all washing and packing will be done in the parking lot and school cafeteria.

Call Jessica Luhnig at 637-8568 or email jessicavsn@frontiernet.net to sign-up or for more information!