



November 30, 2012

Mr. Dale Killmeyer, Executive Director
Mary Jane Berger Memorial Foundation
c/o International Capital Networks, LLC
225 Ross Street, 6th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear Mr. Killmeyer:

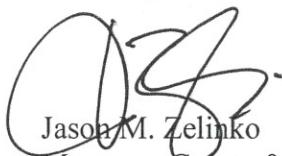
On behalf of Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, please find enclosed the final report for the generous grant of \$10,000 from the Mary Jane Berger Memorial Foundation. The grant supported a community garden and collections project that highlighted the positive role of herbs and the benefits of gardening at select library locations across the City of Pittsburgh.

The community gardens project presented the residents of the city of Pittsburgh with an opportunity to come together to learn about and see first-hand the positive role of herbs and the benefits of having a garden in the community and at home. With the support of the Foundation, the Library created nine community gardens at neighborhoods across the City of Pittsburgh. In addition, the Library presented 45 gardening and herb programs presented between May and September 2012 with a combined attendance of 723 participants of all ages. A total of 71 volunteers participated in identifying plants, planting seeds, watering the plants, harvesting the plants, weeding, and packing herbs in bags for customers to take home. Additionally, the Library purchased 213 copies of books about herbs and gardening that circulated 675 times from May to September 2012.

As you can imagine, we are thrilled with the results of this grant and eager to begin planning the next phase of expanding the reach of this widely popular program for 2013. Please feel free to contact me at 412-622-6566 or zelinkoj@carnegielibrary.org if you have any questions about the report or the Library.

Once again, thank you for your support of the Library.

Sincerely,



Jason M. Zelinko
Manager, Grants & Research

C: Pat Quinn Winter, Director of Development

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Mary Jane Berger Memorial Foundation Final Report 2012



Grantee: Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh

Grant Amount: \$10,000

Purpose:

With the generous support of the Mary Jane Berger Memorial Foundation, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh created nine (9) community gardens at select neighborhood library locations and purchased collections that highlight the positive role of herbs and the benefits of gardening at select library locations across the city of Pittsburgh. The project educated the community and brought attention to the role of herbs in today's society.

The community garden project reached well beyond the library locations, involving volunteers and regional partners in an experiential educational program that brought together residents of the region to learn about and see first-hand the role of herbs and the benefits of having a garden in the community and at home. The project was well received at each of the locations and

Library customers expressed interest in continuing the program. The Library's success can be attributed to our long history of involving cross-generational members of the community, from seniors to young children, in projects and activities.

Community Gardens

During the past six months, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh branches in Carrick, Homewood, Knoxville, Lawrenceville, Mount Washington, Sheraden, Squirrel Hill, West End and Woods Run have developed, planted, and maintained their own community gardens. In addition to the hands-on gardening experience, the grant supported new book collections and informative programming from area experts, including the many uses of herbs. As a first step in the



community gardening process, the project manager collected soil samples from each of the library locations and submitted them to the University of Massachusetts Center for Agriculture for testing. Once the results of the samplings were received, representatives from Phipps Conservatory used this information to recommend a proper site and technique to plant the gardens for each location, and Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh facilities staff prepared the garden beds based on the expert specifications.

Since this was a new program for the Library, the staff did not know what to expect in terms of community reaction to the education programs or to the gardens themselves. In Squirrel Hill, for example, the staff reported that they were very pleased with the results of both. The public's reaction to the project was very positive from the beginning. From the moment staff put up the "Community Garden Coming Soon" signs, they immediately started getting questions and had people signing up for more information and volunteer opportunities.

One of the highlights of the project at Squirrel Hill was the diversity of people who came to help construct the garden. The project attracted young children, teens, and adults, all of whom rolled up their sleeves and set about constructing the beds by moving the soil—bucket by bucket—from a large mound into the beds, and then planting. Seeing the small starter plants thrive and grow lush was delightful for all involved, as was seeing the happiness and enthusiasm the public displayed when taking home the harvest. An added thrill for staff and volunteers was being featured in a newspaper article about rooftop gardens (article enclosed).



At the Woods Run Summer Reading Kickoff Party, volunteers assisted children with the planting and watering of vegetables and herbs in the garden. At this same event, children had the opportunity to plant a seed and take it home. In total, 280 people attended the Woods Run kickoff event. During the summer, children at the Woods Run location helped water the garden and planted additional seeds. Adult volunteers assisted with the weeding, watering and other maintenance. When vegetables and herbs were ripe and ready, they were made available to the

library patrons. Some customers even brought vegetables from their home gardens to share with staff.

The Mt. Washington branch was presented with a unique circumstance when the soil sample tested came back with high levels of lead found in the soil. As a result, raised beds with new soil were used for the library's gardens. The library planted basil, dill, oregano, spicy oregano, parsley, rosemary, sage, spearmint, and thyme. Select herbs were used in the *Herbal Bath Salts* and *Herbal Vinegar* programs held at the branch. At the end of the season, the herbs were potted and moved indoors for the winter.



The community gardening projects at Carrick, Homewood, Knoxville, Lawrenceville, Sheraden, and West End were also well received. A full listing of programs held during the summer is included in the attachments. The gardening process involved people of all ages in the community with the hope that they would interact and learn from each other as they worked on the project. Because of the popularity and success of the project, the Library will look for further assistance from experts on planting the ideal type of garden for additional locations and improving and expanding the gardens at existing locations.

Collections:

The excitement surrounding the community gardens has extended into our gardening and herb book collections purchased with grant funds for this project. The additional materials have strengthened an already strong gardening collection, resulting in what now has become a leading collection of materials on these and similar topics in Western Pennsylvania.

Enclosed is a detailed list of the (31) individual titles purchased using grant funds. In total, (213) copies were purchased and are now available at each of the participating locations and available for checkout throughout the Library system which includes the Allegheny County Library Association libraries.

Evaluation and Outcomes:

The Library achieved the following outcomes as a result of the project:

1. The Library will create eight (8) community gardens by May 2012.

The Library exceeded its goal by creating nine (9) community gardens at Carrick, Homewood, Knoxville, Lawrenceville, Mount Washington, Sheraden, Squirrel Hill, West End and Woods Run neighborhood branch locations.

2. The Library will present a minimum of eight (8) programs on herbs and gardening from May 2012 to September 2012.

Between the nine (9) community garden locations, the Library shattered the original goal of eight (8) programs with a total of (45) programs presented between May and September 2012. The combined attendance totaled (723) participants, far exceeding original expectations. Enclosed is a sample list of programs presented at participating neighborhood locations.

3. The Library will report the total number of volunteers at each location contributing to the upkeep of the gardens.

In total, (71) volunteers participated in identifying plants, planting seeds, watering the plants, harvesting the plants, weeding, and packing herbs in bags for customers to take home.

The following is an itemized list:

- Homewood: (9)
- Knoxville: (10)
- Mt. Washington: (7)
- Sheraden: (4)
- Squirrel Hill: (26)
- West End: (13)
- Woods Run: (2)

4. The Library will report on the circulation totals of the books purchased for the project.

The (213) copies of books circulated (675) times from May to September 2012. The books will continue to circulate for years to come.

Timeline:

The Library successfully followed the original timeline presented in our grant application:

Winter 2012:

- Review and assess land options
- Generate outreach to create interest and involvement
- Plan the gardens and determine the rules and regulations of each
- Purchase gardening materials and supplies
- Begin purchase orders for book collections through the Library's Collection department
- Secure volunteers to help manage and maintain the community gardens
- Book presenters for summer programming (on-going)

Spring 2012:

- Finalize the garden plans for each library location
- Prepare and develop each site
- Advertise the launch of the community gardens and collections through the CLP Web site, e-communications and Library newsletter.

Summer 2012:

- Provide monthly programming to educate people on the positive role of herbs and demonstrate gardening techniques and their benefits.
- Maintain and build upon the community gardens at each library location.

Final Budget Expenditures:

Total: \$10,000

- **Gardening materials and supplies:** \$5,474
- **Programming supplies:** \$545
- **Collections:** \$3,981

Thank You

Thank you for the generous grant from the Mary Jane Berger Memorial Foundation to support this experiential education program at Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh.

Enclosures:

- 2012 Community Garden Programming Examples
- 2012 Community Garden Collection List
- Gardening Thyme Flyer
- "How does our garden grow," *New Chapter*, VOL VI, Issue 2, 2012 article
- "Rooftops challenge city gardeners," Trib Live, August 30, 2012, accessed 11/21/12 at: <http://triblive.com/lifestyles/2274355-74/garden-roof-cooke-herbs-rooftop-finn-hill-plants-squirrel-tomatoes#axzz2DXx5AWb8>



Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh 2012 Community Garden Programming Examples

Seed Bombs:

Amanda West, founder of Pittsburgh Seed & Story Library, taught a hands-on, all-age class about making seed balls. She discussed why people make, distribute and throw seed balls, and what types of seeds are best used for this.

Terrariums:

Create your own ecosystem! greenSinner talked about considerations for choosing plants, accessorizing terrariums and successfully caring for it.

Growing Kids Fantasy:

Children's program where the kids went outside and looked at our community garden and then created their own "fantasy" gardens.

Toddler Storytime: Peas!:

Storytime focused around growing and planting. Each child received their own pot and pea seeds.

Additional programming titles:

- Making Chicken Sausage using Garden Herb
- Herb Vinegar
- Seed Paper Craft
- Fairy and Gnome Houses Craft
- Recycled Paper Pots Craft
- Seed Saving Workshop
- Make Salsa
- Bath Scrub

**Mary Jane Berger Memorial Foundation
2012 Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh
Community Garden Grant Collection List**



In total, (213) copies of (31) individual titles were purchased from grant funds for the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh Community Gardens project. All titles listed alphabetically are below:

1. 300 step-by-step cooking & gardening projects for kids : the ultimate book for budding gardeners and super chefs with amazing things to grow and cook yourself, shown in over 2300 photographs / Nancy McDougall and Jenny Hendy [photography, William Lingwood and Howard Rice].
2. A gardener's notebook : life with my garden / Doug Oster and Jessica Walliser..
3. Better homes and gardens herb gardening.
4. Breverton's complete herbal : a book of remarkable plants and their uses / Terry Breverton.
5. Community gardening : a PHS handbook / editor, Jane Carroll.
6. Easy growing : organic herbs and edible flowers from small spaces / Gayla Trail.
7. Elmo's alphabet soup / [by Naomi Kleinberg illustrated by Tom Brannon].
8. Everyday garden solutions : expert advice from the National Gardening Association / [compiled in partnership with] the National Gardening Association.
9. First peas to the table : how Thomas Jefferson inspired a school garden / Susan Grigsby illustrated by Nicole Tadgell.
10. Fruit & vegetable gardening / Michael Pollock, editor-in-chief.
11. Fruit and vegetables in pots / Jo Whittingham.
12. Grow organic / Doug Oster and Jessica Walliser.
13. Herb gardening from the ground up : everything you need to know about growing your favorite herbs / Sal Gilbertie and Larry Sheehan illustrations by Lauren Jarrett.
14. Jekka's herb cookbook / Jekka McVicar [foreword by Jamie Oliver].
15. Jo MacDonald had a garden / by Mary Quattlebaum illustrated by Laura J. Bryant.
16. Kids' garden : 40 fun indoor and outdoor activities and games / written by Whitney Cohen illustrated by Roberta Arenson.

17. Molly's organic farm / by Carol L. Malnor and Trina L. Hunner illustrated by Trina L. Hunner.
18. National Geographic guide to medicinal herbs : the world's most effective healing plants / Rebecca L. Johnson ... [et al.] photography by Steven Foster foreword by Andrew Weil.
19. Quarter-acre farm : how I kept the patio, lost the lawn and fed my family for a year / Spring Warren illustrations by Nemo. .
20. Small is bountiful : getting more crops from your pots / Liz Dobbs with Anne Halpin.
21. Small plot big harvest / Lucy Halsall.
22. Small-space container gardens : transform your balcony, porch, or patio with fruits, flowers, foliage & herbs / Fern Richardson.
23. Taunton's complete guide to growing vegetables & herbs / from the publishers of Fine Gardening & Kitchen Gardener edited by Ruth Lively.
24. The budding gardener / edited by Mary B. Rein [illustrations by Jane Dippold].
25. The city homesteader : self-sufficiency on any square footage / by Scott Meyer.
26. The complete illustrated book of herbs : growing, health & beauty, cooking, crafts.
27. The edible balcony : growing fresh produce in small spaces / Alex Mitchell photography by Sarah Cuttle.
28. The garden crew / by Sindy McKay illustrated by Meredith Johnson.
29. The little gardener / Jan Gerardi.
30. Tomatoes garlic basil : the simple pleasures of growing and cooking your garden's most versatile veggies / Doug Oster.
31. Worms eat my garbage / by Mary Appelhof with illustrations by Mary Frances Fenton.