

The Cabell County Master Gardener Association, Inc
P.O. Box #7661
Huntington, WV 25778-7661

October 16, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

In January 2009, the city of Huntington, WV was awarded a "Weed and Seed" grant from the Department of Justice. The purpose of this program is to help increase law enforcement and to facilitate ideas which will help educate and empower local citizens to build strong and healthy communities. The Cabell County Master Gardeners have partnered with the WVSC/Huntington Community Gardens (HCG) project since its inception in February 2009.

The Barnett Center facility is the hub of the Weed and Seed program. The Barnett Center is a multifunction community center complete with a computer lab, meeting room, recreation room, dance studio and learning garden. The inner city facility also houses field offices for the K-9 and bicycle police. In the backyard of the Barnett Center, the Huntington Community Gardens team has created a "Learning Garden" for the community. The "Learning Garden" has both flower and vegetable beds. This garden and others have been made possible by various donations. Local businesses, local garden centers, volunteer groups, and individuals have generously donated time, plants, equipment, supplies, money, and experience to the various projects.

The Cabell County Master Gardeners mission is to educate the public. Therefore we have donated numerous volunteer hours to these projects. We believe the Huntington Community Gardens projects serve as a tool to expand horticultural knowledge and to breakdown social barriers in the community. We plan for this to be a perpetual partnership. We have been impressed with the level of enthusiasm, dedication, and hard work of the HCG volunteer staff. The staff and volunteers have created "learning gardens" in several distressed sections of Huntington.

The Cabell County Master Gardeners have witnessed how residents can play a vital role in improving their personal lives and local living environment. We whole-heartedly support the Huntington Community Gardens beautification projects. These projects encourage personal development through "hands on" education. Education empowers people by helping them acquire knowledge, skills and self-respect for a job well done. One's quality of life improves in a clean, safe, healthy and beautiful neighborhood. All who participate in the reconstruction can benefit from the improved conditions. Enthusiastic mentors, teaching techniques, good communications and a healthy environment increase the chances that individuals will be prepared to make sound choices. The ability

for citizens to set and reach reasonable goals makes a happier, healthier
Huntington, WV.

The Cabell County Master Gardeners support the WVSC/Huntington
Community Gardens Project as we purposefully assist them to "sow the seeds of
knowledge". The CYFAR Grant would play a vital part in the advancement the
HCG five year plan. We appreciate your continued support of the Huntington
Community Gardens as they endeavor to improve the quality of life in
Huntington, WV.

Sincerely,

Dawn Long
Cabell County Master Gardener Association Inc.