

Proverbs 22:9 The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor.

Our Lady of Nazareth Giving Garden

<https://pixabay.com/en/cherry-tomatoes-tomatoes-garden-2613157>

In 2014, three eager parishioners at Our Lady of Nazareth (OLN) Catholic Church established the OLN Giving Garden (GG) in an effort to address food insecurity in the Roanoke area. The fresh vegetables grown were donated to St. Francis House Food Pantry. The small 140 sq. ft. garden eventually produced about 350 pounds of vegetables for donation in a growing season.



In 2018, as the awareness of the hunger in our local community grew,



the OLN Giving Garden also grew, expanding to approximately 1000 sq. ft. of vegetable growing space in 34 raised beds. With the help of the Boy Scouts, an adjacent berry garden was added a year later. The garden was designed and built by volunteers.

The garden expansion enabled the GG to also provide fresh produce to Roanoke Area Ministries (RAM) day shelter in addition to the food pantry. Each year the Giving Garden grows a wide variety of vegetables and berries from March through November using environmentally sustainable methods. The garden is entirely managed and maintained by more than 60 dedicated volunteers.



Since 2018, the Giving Garden has produced on average approximately 2700 pounds of fresh organic fruits and vegetables during each growing season. Volunteers have logged an average of 650 hours each year for planting, harvesting, and delivering vegetables and fruits, in addition to



the hours for construction and maintenance. The GG volunteers strive to understand the ongoing needs of the community, and with each growing season, hope to better serve those in the Roanoke Valley.

___ I want to donate \$ _____ to the OLN Giving Garden.

___ I want to volunteer to work in the OLN Giving Garden.

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____ Phone _____

For more information: Diane Koropchak at dckoropchak@gmail.com

Mail donation to: Our Lady of Nazareth, 2505 Electric Rd, Roanoke, VA 24018

