

REACHING HUNGRY PEOPLE WITH DELICIOUS FRESH VEGETABLES

Public Health Problem

- Over 32,000 households in Chester County, Pennsylvania don't have enough food.
- The Chester County Food Bank regularly feeds almost 130,000 adults and children, providing food to the hungry through more than 65 food pantries and a Raised Bed Gardening Project.

Program

- The Chester County Health Department receives Preventive Health and Health Services block grant funding from the Pennsylvania Department of Health to administer community interventions such as worksite wellness initiatives and community gardens.
- They developed a partnership with Multiquip Sanders to provide worksite wellness assistance.
- As part of this initiative, Sanders employees expressed an interest in building and planting raised bed gardens on company property.
- In support of the Sanders volunteerism philosophy employees chose to donate their harvest to the local Food Bank--the first private business in the county to do so.

Impact

- In one growing season Sanders donated 140 pounds of kale, beets, green beans and tomatoes to the Food Bank, \$250-worth of healthy food at retail value for community members who have limited access to fresh, nutritious vegetables.
- Benefits to Multiquip Sanders from the community garden project include support of its worksite wellness message, help with team building, and support of the company's corporate philosophy through provision of an employee volunteer opportunity to help those in need.
- "We are thrilled to have Multiquip Sanders join our network of raised bed gardens! The employees have set a wonderful example of how a small company can have a large impact on serving the community. We are very grateful for their time and effort," says Mary Kay Peterson, Coordinator of the Chester county Food Bank Raised Bed Garden Project.

Contact

Jessica Wright
Pennsylvania Department of Health
717-787-5900
jesswright@state.pa.us