

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Valley Green Team Receives Grant for Second Community Garden

The Mt. Washington Valley Green Team recently received a grant of \$1,250 from the New England Grassroots Environment Fund to help establish a second community garden in 2010.

The Green Team's Sustainable Food and Agriculture Subcommittee established the first Valley Community Garden this past spring, and local residents enjoyed tending their plots and growing their own produce. The garden contained 28 rental plots as well as a "Giving Garden," tended by volunteers, which provided food for local food pantries, including the Dinner Bell community dinners and families aided by Starting Point.

Russ and Joan Lanoie donated space for the garden on their Tasker Hill Road property in Conway. Russ also provided lots of sweat equity in helping to create the garden's raised beds, and also donated many yards of compost.

Subcommittee Chair Jenn Andrews said the team expects to continue to use the Tasker Hill garden site again next year, but, given the great community interest, they also plan to add one or more garden sites elsewhere in the valley to grow the effort and make garden plots available to more local residents.

"We're looking at a few potential spots for another community garden, and we hope to have at least one more site available for use by local gardeners by planting time this coming spring," Andrews said. "This generous grant from the New England Grassroots Environmental Fund will certainly help us make more gardening opportunities available for local folks—and by extension, more food available for needy families—so we're extremely grateful for the fund's support."

Also part of the subcommittee's plan is to engage more gardeners through outreach to local schools; to donate more food to those in need; and to use a dehydrator to help enhance the storage value of locally grown produce.

The Valley Community Garden's mission is "to create an organic garden for Mt. Washington Valley citizens; fresh vegetables and flowers for distribution to area residents and seniors in need; and a gardening experience that benefits all Valley residents through gardening education, mentoring, and volunteer participation."

More information on the Valley Community Garden and the Mt. Washington Valley Green Team is available at www.mwvgreenteam.org. Subcommittees of the Green Team include Sustainable Food and Agriculture, Education and Outreach, Recycling/Conservation, Fundraising, Legislative Issues, and Communications. Valley residents wishing to join a Green Team Subcommittee should contact Green Team Chair Rob Burbank at rburbank@outdoors.org.

The Valley Community Garden has enjoyed support from Green Team Charter Sponsor Cormack Construction Management, Inc., Russ and Joan Lanoie, Blue Sky Environmental Strategies, the Conway Area Humane Society, UNH Cooperative Extension, the Kennett Middle School, the Mt. Washington Valley School to Career Partnership, Dick Fortin, and the volunteer members of the Green Team's Local Food and Sustainable Agriculture Subcommittee. Generous donations of garden materials were made by Paris Farmers Union, The Home Depot, and Aubuchon Hardware.

The Mt. Washington Valley Green Team is a committee of the Mt. Washington Valley Preservation Association in affiliation with the Mt. Washington Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Green Team was developed to act as a catalyst to facilitate, educate, promote, and encourage sustainable green business practices that will lead to positive, measurable business, community, and environmental results.

The Green Team is grateful for support from Charter Sponsor Cormack Construction Management, Inc. as well as Flatbread Company, the Eastern Slope Inn, Frontside Grind, and Salvatore Michael's Framed Art Superstore.