

UpGarden



UpGarden located on the rooftop of the Mercer Street Parking Garage between Mercer and 1st Avenue is now home to 90 individual plots gardens, ADA beds and giving gardens. Last year UpGarden contributed more than 500 lbs. of produce to the Seattle Food Banks. What was simply a design on paper has now become part of the Lower Queen Anne neighborhood. The gardeners at UpGarden have been able to share their garden with the community, children and senior citizens; and being awarded this gift card from City People's would allow UpGarden to continue with the following programs.

- Our involvement with Seattle Public Schools - Vision Services, serving all students within district with visual impairments has allowed UpGarden to offer hands-on experience for visually impaired students with several aspects of gardening. One area that has been very useful is our herb garden. Here the children can explore herbs with their touch and sense of smell, as each herb feels and smells differently. An additional experience involves worms. The information that worms do not have eyes, but feel through their skin is something the children really enjoy. The children are able to feel the worms move on their hands. We have built a worm bin but have had difficulty with the success of this project and would like to obtain a commercial worm bin which would benefit the children's project and the gardeners by providing worm tea for their plots.



- We are working with the Emeritus Senior Living Center at 805 4th Avenue North to grow our Giving Garden starts in their on-site greenhouse and also gourds for our involvement with the Young Child Academy Pre-School. These gourds will be made into Bird Houses. This partnership has been extremely beneficial in providing the starts which in turn have enabled UpGarden to continue to provide fresh produce to the various food banks in Seattle. Several of the residents at Emeritus make the UpGarden part of their regular walking route and are also avid readers of our weekly emails so they are able to keep up with the happenings at the garden.



- A project that we started this year is a garden treasure hunt. We have plants that start with each letter of the alphabet throughout our common beds. The Seattle Schools program is going to supply UpGarden with braille stickers so that the signs for each plant can be read by all students. Some of the plants are annuals so we would need additional plants for the next season.
- We look forward next fall to have an opportunity to provide a harvest festival for the children from the various Seattle School programs; for the Young Child Academy; and for the residents of Emeritus. Our vision is to grow pumpkins during the year which we would let the children paint and take home. Another part of the community festival would be creating scarecrows. UpGarden would provide garden tools such as leaf rakes, hand-trowels and other hand tools, along with garden gloves, hats and tool aprons. The scarecrows would be displayed throughout UpGarden for the enjoyment of all our visitors.

The UpGarden's involvement with various children's program and with the Emeritus Senior Living Center has been an added bonus to being able to provide garden space for more than 90 gardeners. The \$1000 gift card would help us with plants, materials for growing starts, and fertilizers. The gift card would also be used for securing a commercial worn bin and supplies for the Fall harvest festival. We look forward to working with City People's to deepen our community involvement.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Hedman

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