

# Down on the Farm

*Working Together*



*Teamwork* is one of the parts of HGP that I love dearly and one way we depend on each other for the Project's success. At the workshop, a wreath maker is giving some UCSC students pointers on making a wreath. At the table beside her, someone is sewing dryer bags to be stuffed with lavender that was harvested up at the farm in the summer. Up at the farm, Mike and David are preparing beds for the strawberry plants, while others dig up dahlias for the winter. Teamwork creates the ability for each of us to participate in and create something much larger than ourselves.

*The* wider circle of our team includes CSA members and store customers, donors, foundations, businesses, volunteers of many kinds, service providers and other local agencies and nonprofits. After our last CSA harvest for 2009, about two thirds of our crew moved down to our workshop and gift shop to make wreaths, candles and the other gift products we sell in our holiday store. The remaining crew members are completing fall tasks at the farm. On Tuesdays, everyone comes together to participate in circle meeting at the workshop; this meeting started in the earliest days of HGP as an opportunity to communicate about where each of us on our team has been and where we hope to be heading as a team.

*I* am constantly surprised at the depth and breadth of experience and the honesty and openness that trainees bring to the check in portion of circle meeting. There is mutual support, insight, originality, stories of challenge or loss, of progress and achievement. Since we do this each week, there is the knowledge that this is how things are today, subject to change by next week. One trainee speaks with very few words, another with many; there are soft spoken check ins and check ins that pack a punch. As we move around the circle and each member adds their contribution, I feel such appreciation for our trainees and for belonging to this group.

*I* aspire to begin to paint a picture that would describe the excitement of activity that happens most days at the farm or workshop, to address the misconception that new visitors often voice, "I had no idea there was so much going on out here." It may be the best way to do this is to invite you to visit our farm any Thursday or Friday from 10-2; or, for a slightly different picture, visit our holiday store open 7 days a week from 10-7 at 30 West Cliff Drive. I am honored to be a part of this excitement, community and productivity. Lynne Basehore Cooper once observed that, "The Project teaches us capability and compassion." The Project is a summons to creative, practical and sustained action to meet a political, moral, social and cultural problem of our time. For your participation on our team, we are grateful, and we hope that the Project continues to inspire and summon you.

— Darrie Ganzhorn is Director of Programs



## *From the Board*

*With* the holiday season quickly approaching, we will each be lucky to spend time with friends and family and count our blessings. I feel thankful for the opportunity to have served on the board of the Homeless Garden Project for more than a year. What I've gathered over this year, listening to and reading stories from staff and trainees, is that people from all walks of life can end up in all sorts of places. You just never know when circumstances will change, when you will make a mistake, or when you'll open the door of a golden opportunity.

*As* I've learned these stories, what I feel over and over again is gratitude that I have been able to give of my time and financial resources to this project. Every time I see the difference that it makes in people's lives, and the value that the farm provides to the community, I feel strengthened because I am standing behind that work. I hope that by putting my willingness to help others out into the world, that when the day comes that I need help (as it has, and surely will again), it is there for me. As a friend of the project, I hope you will help to open that door of opportunity for the trainees who are working hard to take steps in the right direction. *Please make a gift to day to support the transformational work that happens at the Homeless Garden Project. Everyone has the opportunity to give something meaningful, whether it is a smile, a kind word or gesture, time as a volunteer, or a material gift. I hope that you will take the opportunity this season to give to the Homeless Garden Project.*

*Warm wishes to you and your family this winter season.*

— Amy Van Scoik, Homeless Garden Project Chair, Board of Directors

*Every time I see the difference that it makes in people's lives, and the value that the farm provides to the community, I feel strengthened because I am standing behind that work...*

# Voices from the Fields...

## Bringing out the Best.

*Senescence arrives at the farm as winter encroaches.*

*There* is no escape from these cold darkening days, because, unlike birds, plants cannot fly south for the winter, so they turn in and soil feeding crops turn on.

*Feeding* the soil that feeds the plants that feed the people is a big part of what must be done behind the scenes and between the seasons on an organic farm. As farmers, we tend to this task by growing cover crops and cultivating compost. Winter also allows us the time to give much needed first-aid to all of the tooling and hardware that takes a seasonal beating in its effort to help ups get the food to your plates and the flowers to your vases.

*This* will be my first winter working at the farm and I am really excited about getting everything prepped for what will hopefully be an exceptionally bountiful CSA season in 2010. After 22 weeks of growing things and harvesting them, I feel that I can call myself a farmer, and for that, and to the Homeless Garden Project, I am truly grateful. There are many different people on the farm for many different reasons on any given day. Disabled adults, people working off community hours, college interns, field trips, birdwatchers, volunteer gardeners, edge of town renegades, tamale vendors, entomologists, gypsies, tramps and thieves, deer, radio controlled model aircraft, one cat and five ducks.

— continued on next column

*Am* I forgetting anyone? Oh yeah, the trainees of the Homeless Garden Project, the very most important part of the Homeless Garden Project! I would like to thank those who have helped us in the field with their tireless service to the cause. As far as homelessness goes, and without detailing my personal experience with a lot of long-winded melodramatic blathering testimony, let me just say that I have spent periods of my life without residence for various reasons, mostly having to do with myself being my own worst enemy, one way or another.

*For* example, in my youth, and as a young adult, I drank as much alcohol as I could get my hands on in an attempt to escape the feeling of life being a void. I remember avoiding home for long periods of time in my too-often nihilistic quest for a sense of meaning, belonging and purpose. I think about my youth a lot through my interaction with various youth groups who visit and lend a hand to the farm. It makes me very happy to see at-risk young people become inspired, grounded and centered through their involvement with organic agriculture. I imagine that had I access to a program such as the Homeless Garden Project when I was a kid, the direction of my life would have been re-directed.

*What* else can I say? I can say that the Homeless Garden Project just brings out the best in people, that's all.

— MD Erickson is an HGP trainee



Photos in this issue were taken by Jon Kersey.

*The Homeless Garden Project just brings out the best in people, that's all.*

# Voices from the Fields...

## Not just a Farm...

*Off* to the west, you could hear the machines rattle across that field that I had gazed upon so often before. This was the frame to every sunset. I watch in the evening as the seasons change while the field work morphs from cultivation, through planting, to the endless regiment of pesticide applications, finally settling into a panoramic view defined by oscillating rainbirds spouting water onto the dry coast and large brassicas surrounding them. On this day, however, I could hear voices yelling out next to large machines with faceless workers methodically moving through the field. I thought about those machines that do not stop to take a break. They do not take the time to go to the bathroom and wash their hands. They do not ask about the families of the workers surrounding them, or whether or not they had a dry place to sleep during our wet winters. They do not care when the bodies next to their grease and steel scream trying to keep pace.

*While* the Homeless Garden Project most certainly runs a Farm in every sense of the word, one filled with irrigation and planting schedules, cover cropping and rotation, propagation and dew covered early morning harvests, in the end the days center around relationships and a collective desire to be involved in work that is built on honor and integrity.

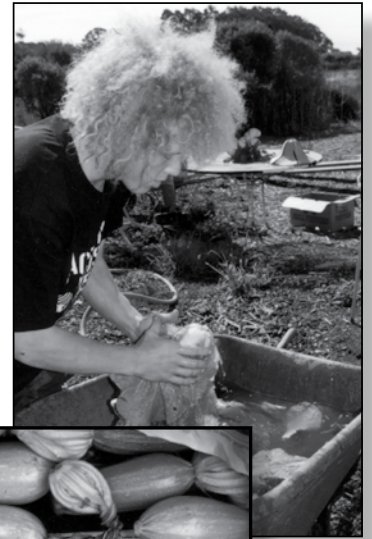
A livelihood that is filled equally with humility and pride. For far too long, farming has been at the forefront of the destruction of our planet. Those of us working in our fields are certain that farming must play a major role if we are to begin to slowly heal a planet fueled by development with little regard for the consequences surrounding it. For almost twenty years, the Project has trained homeless (and housed) community members, interns, and volunteers how to be farmers. We train people how to grow food for themselves and those around them. We discuss creating spaces filled with diversity of plants, animals, and most certainly people. For in doing so, it is then that one can grow fruit, flowers, vegetables, and ourselves organically.

— continued on next column

*When* I look around at our farm, instead of a bed shaper being pulled behind one large tractor, there are six people forming large beds like the ones you would see in Watsonville. Only the bed shaping wasn't filled with a tractor's roar. Instead childhoods and aspirations are talked about. Jokes made and stories told. All the while preparing a small 2-acre farm for its strawberry planting (4000 plants of Albion and Seascapes if you were wondering). While we understand that our Project alone does not solve homelessness or fill all of the bellies in a community starved of nutrition, we believe that the Homeless Garden has played and will continue to play a large role in not just farming commodities. Rather, we will await the winter rains preparing for a bumper crop of people who have the courage to step foot onto the farm and be a part of our Project.

*There* I stood, next to our red Ford farm truck. The sun dancing downwards behind the field workers and marsh hawks. And I thought aloud how different that brussel sprout farm off to the west was.

— Paul Glowaski is Farm Director at Homeless Garden Project



The Homeless Garden has played and will continue to play a large role in not just farming commodities.

# Voices from the Fields...

## Receive a 10% Match for your support of the Homeless Garden Project *Birdies for Charity*

is a fun and easy way to make a charitable donation to the Homeless Garden Project plus a 10% match! It's based on the number of combined birdies scored by PGA Tour players throughout the 2010 AT & T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am golf tournament, February 11-14. You may pledge one cent or more per birdie scored during the tournament or you may pledge a flat donation. Monterey Peninsula Foundation will invoice you for the amount you pledged. **Plus, Monterey Peninsula Foundation will enhance your donation by an extra 10%. Great Prizes too!**

## Go to:

<http://birdies.attbgolf.com/charities/homelessgardenproject> for rules and prize information and to pledge your support. Be sure to *designate the Homeless Garden Project to receive your donation, plus a 10% match!*

## Thank you to the foundations that have supported us in 2009!

- The Quentin Hancock Fund, an advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation
- The Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County
- The Stocker Family Fund at the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County
- The Hitachi Foundation
- Helen and Will Webster Foundation
- Ms. Carolyn Moore and The George L. Shields Foundation
- The Good Times Community Fund at the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County
- Monterey Peninsula Foundation, host of the A T & T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am (2008)
- Newman's Own Foundation
- Mazal Foundation
- Lynne and Dan Alper Fund
- Ms. Wendy E. Jordan



**Thank you** to the businesses that have supported us in 2009!

## Business & Corporate Gifts

- New Leaf Community Markets
- Gayle's Bakery
- North Coast Vision
- Museum Of Art & History
- Finish Line Productions
- Astrograph Software, Inc.
- Blue Pilot Consulting
- Monterey Bay Mortgage
- Whole Foods

## Partners in Change

- Bob Carlton Graphics
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- Mission Printers
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- Polar Bear Ice Cream
- Swanton Berry Farm
- Jon Kersey Photography
- Paul Schraub Photography

## Friends of the Garden

- Lush Fresh Handmade Cosmetics
- Hitachi Data Systems
- Gardenburger Community Garden Grants
- Santa Cruz Community Credit Union
- Earthbound Farm

## Matching Gifts

- Adobe Systems Incorporated
- Cisco
- Edison International
- Gap Foundation
- Microsoft Matching Gift Program
- Perforce Software, Inc.

## Event Sponsors

- Bonny Doon Vineyard Cellar Door Café
- La Posta and Soif Wine Bar
- Renee's Garden
- Bay Federal Credit Union
- Santa Cruz Community Credit Union

*Recent tribute gifts made to the HGP  
for gifts of \$75 or more.*

A tribute gift to the Project is a great way to show your support of our programs while honoring the people in your life. We'll acknowledge your gift promptly by mailing a beautiful card of our organic flower farm to the individual, family, or organization you are honoring or to the appropriate person to receive remembrances. (Please remember to send the address!) For gifts of \$75 or more, we'll also send your tribute person a pair of 10" handmade beeswax candles made in our workshop. The gift amount is not included with the card or candle. You'll receive our grateful confirmation of your gift for tax purposes.

*In Honor Of:*

Mark Zalona & Heather Turey— *Anonymous*  
The wedding of Sara Keene and Ian Bailey— *Caitlin Brune & Christine Reyes*  
The wedding of Cathy Aronson and Jeff Wilson— *Caitlin Brune & Christine Reyes*  
Adam Brunner's Birthday— *Anonymous*

*In Memory Of:*

Philip DiGiovanni — *Carolina Bayne, Nina Boyd, Richard & Corinne Cirone*  
*Ambrose & Michele Pollock, Virgil & Janet Givins*  
Norman Borlaug — *David & Joan Domin-Hentges*  
Mary Atchinson — *Jim & Rebecca Lang*  
Brian Ebnetter — *Ned & Karin Cain, Heidi Diep, Larry Grondahl*  
*Hallmark Construction, Donald Olson, David Russell, Steve & Katherine Williams*

# Matching Gift *for* *New Donors!*

If you are a first time donor to the Homeless Garden Project, the *Stocker Family Fund at the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County* will match your gift to *double the value for our programs*. Please give today and thank you for helping us to meet this challenge!

## *Thank you* to

- LA POSTA,
- SOIF WINE BAR and
- BONNY DOON VINEYARD  
CELLAR DOOR CAFÉ  
*for making our fall events  
a huge success!*



*www.homelessgardenproject.org*

# The Homeless Garden Project

P.O. Box 617 • Santa Cruz, California • 95061

See our Web Site: [www.homelessgardenproject.org](http://www.homelessgardenproject.org)  
or call us at: (831) 426-3609

Be an active supporter:

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\_\_\_\_\_ \$ 250. Sower of the Garden

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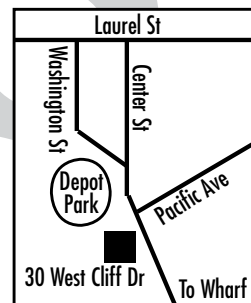
THE HOMELESS GARDEN PROJECT

WREATHS,

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*The Homeless Garden Project provides jobs and training to people who are homeless in Santa Cruz county.*