

ARROW & SLOCAN LAKES COMMUNITY SERVICES

SEPTEMBER 2023



**BURTON
FOOD
SECURITY
PROJECT
REPORT**

BURTON FOOD SECURITY COLUMBIA BASIN TRUST REPORT

PROJECT PURPOSE

The Arrow and Sloan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS) Food Access and Recovery Project with the support of the (BCA) Burton Community Association, was created to strengthen the food system in the rural and remote community of Burton and surrounding areas by focusing on processes and infrastructure that will influence food, nutrition, healthy community development, agriculture and support of the local food bank pantry.

PROJECT GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- ✓ **FOOD SECURITY:** To create a one-acre free Community Garden space in Burton to offer opportunities for all to produce nutritious food at affordable prices.
- ✓ **EDUCATION & SKILL BUILDING:** To offer education for all ages on food growth, appreciation and preservation through social media sharing, through in person workshops, kids drop in's, day camps, with the use of signage and hands on training in the community garden.
- ✓ **SOCIAL CONNECTION:** To provide opportunities for face to face human connection to build a deeper sense of community and belonging through engaging community events and social programming.
- ✓ **FOOD ACCESS:** To increase access to nutritious, locally grown food to vulnerable populations through access to a food bank pantry and the "Grow A Row" program, whereby community members who grow in the community garden are encouraged to grow a row with the intent to donate it to the community via new food bank access.
- ✓ **FOOD RECOVERY:** Facilitate food sharing and recovery options to minimize waste.
- ✓ **PUBLIC ACCESS: TO CREATE A COMMERCIAL KITCHEN:** Create improvements to the community kitchen with the aim of making it a commercial kitchen so as to use the space to preserve and sell food to the Burton Community



Year one Reflection with Project Coordinator: LINDSAY PERCY

The 2022 BCG was a challenge. From supply shortages on fencing materials to finding labourers to help with the fencing process, to starting my position late in the season.

Initially, the 2022 garden season started out with the Burton Elementary School classes coming to the garden, up to 3 times a week to learn how to properly use garden tools, what type of weeds are invasive and what ‘weeds’ can be used for medicinal purposes. The students also learned how to prepare a row and how to plant seeds, to space them, cover them, and water/maintain them.

Fencing took nearly 8 weeks to source and arrive, with another week for full installation. At this point, Jake and I were able to finally start putting plant starts in the ground where the wildlife couldn’t eat it.

There were 35 rows planted by community members, 4 out of 5 raised beds planted, and 20 rows planted for the food access program – Jake and Lindsay maintained. Crops such as carrots, beets, potatoes, a variety of beans, peas, tomatoes, peppers, zucchini, cucumbers, pickling cucumbers, a variety of squash, corn, and pumpkins were planted.

Carrots, potatoes, and a variety of squash were the heaviest producers throughout the entire season.

The soil was very hard, compact and didn’t soak in moisture very well. Amending is needed.

We ended the season with 415 cloves of garlic planted for the spring. These will require fertilizing in the spring.

Found it to be EXTREMELY hot at the garden this summer – mornings usually started around 7:30 and ended at 10:30-11 before the heat was too much. Minimal to no shade throughout the day. Definitely need to figure out something for shade. Storage shed has had the door repaired and is secured but the walls have not been replaced. We dealt with a LOT of wasps at the garden this summer.

It would benefit the soil to have cover crops rotating, manure and leaves/compost consistently added to break down and build the soil and the nutrient factor.





YEAR TWO REFLECTION WITH PROJECT COORDINATOR:

TINA KNOOIHUIZEN

I am so pleased with the progress of the now named “BEE HAPPY” Burton Community Garden. There was a call out to the community to name the garden and the Burton Association chose this name from about a dozen submissions.

To participate in the journey from the blank canvas to landscape design, seed planting and finally to harvest is an incredibly rewarding and educational experience. There is such satisfaction that comes from being an active participant in something so beneficial to a community. Contributing to and witnessing the culmination of all the generous donations and tireless efforts put forth by so many volunteers and our fabulous summer employee, Keely, the transformation from mere concept to a tangible reality was remarkable.

This year with the generous CBT grant we have been able to acquire much needed garden equipment such as a large rototiller, a cultivator, hoses and timers.

We have taken the advice of the previous coordinator and brought in truckloads of organic materials to help with soil amendment. It absolutely made a positive difference. We then set out to garden scape the land into defined plots providing our dedicated gardeners with their own personal spaces to cultivate and tend to their plants. The dividing paths between the plots were covered with cedar wood chips generously donated by box lake lumber.

Finally, thanks to donations from locals and volunteer efforts, we have been able to dedicate time to the ongoing maintenance of the buildings and grounds. I had the pleasure of welcoming the students of the Burton Elementary to lend a hand in planting pumpkins, squash, potatoes and sunflower seeds. It was a joy to witness their enthusiasm some have since returned to the garden to see the progress. I look forward to their return in the fall to help harvest.





We have included a few indigenous elements including a land recognition poster, the 3 sisters planting practice where-by corn, squash and pole beans are planted side by side as companions to help each other grow. Additionally, the local first nations people were forager/ gatherers. We have dedicated a garden bed to locally found edible and medicinal plants with educational signage for identification. Lastly there is a dress form planted with red scarlet runner beans in remembrance of missing indigenous women and children.

There are 6 community members growing garden patches taking up 1/3 of the planted space, all of whom donate produce to the food pantry.



Left: Margaret Simpson

With a wealth of experience tucked under her green thumb, Margaret graciously shared her invaluable wisdom and expertise on the art of growing food with both novice and seasoned gardeners.

“I just love being able to visit the garden and enjoy the flowers and herbs as well as the vegetables! What a pleasure to visit this beautiful and welcoming space! I come to pick tomatoes for supper and leave feeling peaceful and happy. We are so blessed to have such a magical place in our community!”
Mary Isaac

FOOD PANTRY



In an effort to distribute harvested food to community members, we now have a BEE HAPPY Community Food Pantry set up just outside the garden. It operates on the honour system. The sign reads, ***“Take what you need, leave what you can”***. We have only just begun harvesting this years crops for the food pantry but are keeping track of how many pounds we are harvesting. I’m also grateful to a few volunteers that have been delivering food to neighbours in need.

The pantry has already had over \$100 in cash donations and also many kinds of produce from local growers contributed.





EDUCATION, SKILL BUILDING & COMMUNITY CONNECTION

We offered three separate day camp events for children to come learn and participate in the garden. Unfortunately, we didn't have a big turnout but made the best of it with the children that did come.

In the fall we will be hosting a pizza in the garden event using fresh garden ingredients.



Pizza in the Garden Patch 

We cordially invite you to partake in a delightful culinary experience amidst the buzz of the bees and serene ambiance of the

BEE HAPPY
Burton Community Garden.

Indulge in delectable flavours of site-grown herbs and vegetables on freshly baked pizza made by Burton City Cider, accompanied by a fresh garden salad and a glass of mint-infused lemonade

Saturday September 9th,
1:00-3:00
Burton Community Garden
To save your seat, RSVP Tina at tdkpicart@gmail.com

 A sponsored event compliments of a CBT Community Grant



Mud Pies & Magic Beans
Garden Quest Day Camp

July 11, 12, 13, 1:00-4:00, Ages 7-12

At the Burton Community Garden and Hall. By Donation, Limited space

Registration opens April 2nd
Email: burtonfa@outlook.com



Snakes and Snails Garden Quest Day Camp

August 8, 9, 10 1:00-4:00 at the Burton Community Garden.

Ages 7-12. Limited space by donation

registration opens April 2nd @ the Community Garden meeting at the hall or email burtonfa@outlook.com after the 2nd



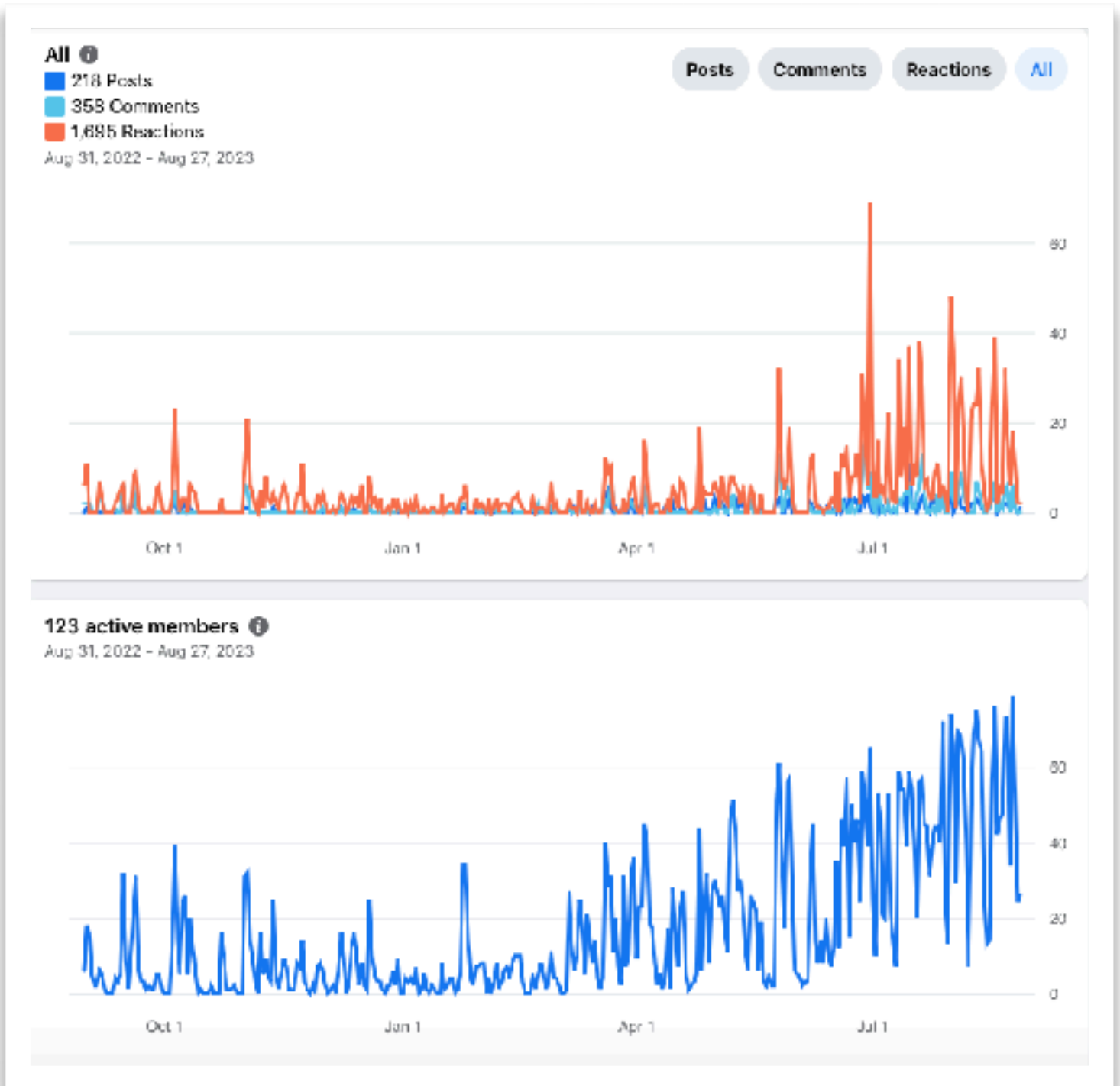

Fairy Garden for mothers day.

Another way in which we chose to educate visitors was with informative signage throughout the garden.



SOCIAL MEDIA

In our ongoing efforts to educate the Burton community about the critical issue of food security, we have found yet another effective avenue to be social media posting. Through the Facebook platform, we have created the Burton Food security Group. In this way, we are able to reach a wider audience and disseminate valuable information by sharing engaging and informative content, such as articles, infographics, personal stories, and food availability, we aim to raise awareness and foster a sense of community among members. Through these digital channels, we can spark meaningful conversations, encourage dialogue, and ultimately inspire action towards a more secure and sustainable food system. Our Facebook Group has gained momentum over the last year.



130 total members ⓘ

Aug 27, 2023



53 membership requests ▲ 70.97% ⓘ

Apr 30, 2023 - Aug 27, 2023



Number of new member requests per day (Apr 30 - Aug 27)

Top posts ⓘ

⚠ Date range does not apply to top posts. Data shown is always for the last 28 days.



Tina Knooihuizen

[Admin](#) [Top contributor](#) · August 17 at 11:12 AM · 🌐

They're done! THANKS TO RICK AND JOSH for installing our COMPOST YARD in the staircase at the BFF HAPPY 🌻 Burien Community Garden. Both time and materials were donated! My heart is full! Man I LOVE this community!

👍👍 Dolly Edwards, Cathy Harper and 22 others

8 comments

👁 Seen by 101



Tina Knooihuizen

[Admin](#) [Top contributor](#) · August 21 at 4:53 PM · 🌐

We are currently seeking individuals who possess skills in the art of preserving food. Specifically, we are interested in those who are well-versed in the techniques of canning, dehydrating, and freezing. We kindly request the presence o...

👍👍 Dolly Edwards, Margaret Driscoll and 7 others

9 comments

👁 Seen by 108



Tina Knooihuizen

[Admin](#) [Top contributor](#) · July 31 at 12:31 AM · 🌐

The Burien Gleaning Program: The Burien Gleaning Program brings people together to collect and distribute our local surplus of fruits and vegetables. This helps prevent waste and provides fresh food to those who may not have access...

👍👍 Cathy Harper, Kate Lario and 17 others

7 comments

👁 Seen by 99



Tina Knooihuizen

[Admin](#) [Top contributor](#) · July 31 at 8:23 PM · 🌐

Improvements continue.

👍👍 Athena McGrath, Shari Smith and 16 others

5 comments

👁 Seen by 86



Burton Food Access

Tina Knooihuizen · Apr 24 · 📷

Is this not a thing of pure beauty?!
Thank you Gary Mentz! You are a superhero!
🐝 Bee Happy Burton Community Garden.



Jerusha's post



Burton Food Access

Jerusha Hilman · 6d · 📷

I just want to give a shoutout to Tina! She has done an amazing job taking over the Community Garden this year. She had big shoes to fill after Lindsay spearheaded this huge project last year. Laying the groundwork and setting us up for success! This has been a wonderful asset to our community! Every time I walk through the garden, I'm amazed at the progress and growth that has and is still taking place. It's absolutely beautiful and flourishing! A job well done 🐝



Like



Comment

Send



Courtney Edwards and 27...

Seen by 99 people

FUNDING SOURCES / DONATIONS

Donations:

- Heritage Nursery 15 bags of seed potatoes
- 2 totes of bark mulch- aprox \$150.00
- Spray on fertilizer Soil Solutions-
- Home Building Ctr. 2 cans of alkyd paint- Aprox \$80.00
- 35 Hours donated volunteer Time Josh Dyck
- \$20.00 for Fairy Garden Project
- Large Plant Pots
- Forklift Time to unload Mulch tote. Allan Ross
- Seeds and plant slips- Margaret & Inga
- Sunflower seeds- Matthew
- Raised Wooden Beds- Sherry Dyck
- Loads of sawdust Bryan Harrop, Rick Dyck
- Truck loads of leaves- Campground
- Bird Bath- Margaret Driscoll- \$108.00
- Volunteers to weed- numerous
- Student Volunteers to plant
- New staircase on shed-Time and some materials -Rick and Josh Dyck aprox \$200
- Cash donations in the food Pantry- \$106.90
- Soaker hoses - RDCK Grant- \$800
- Donation of time to write two of the necessary food safety plans for the community kitchen. Sylvia



Tina Knooihuizen

Admin

Top contributor

August 17 at 11:12 AM · 🌐



They're done! THANKS TO RICK AND JOSH for replacing our COMPLETELY rotten staircase at the BEE HAPPY 🐝 Burton Community Garden. Both time and materials were donated! My heart is full! Man I LOVE this community!



Dolly Edwards, Cathy Harper and 22 others

8 comments · Seen by 100

We've been grateful to receive many donations of both time and labour, money and materials from community members.

A WORD FROM OUR SUMMER EMPLOYEE EXTRAORDINAIRE :

KEELY MONTGOMERY (AGE 20)



MY TIME AT THE GARDEN 🌿

I started Monday June 26th. So far, I've learned a lot! Most things I never would have thought about, like how you have to cut flower heads off the mint or it might quit producing, which I thought was cool! A new level of knowledge so I can care for my favourite tea ingredient! I've weeded, planted and harvested almost every kind of plant we have in the garden! Some take a lot longer to grow than the others for example, our radishes started growing within a week or two but the beets did grow for a full month.

Josh, a local student, joined shortly after I did. I'm happy he was around! He and his dad have done so much amazing stuff for the garden! Josh layered mulch, weeded, and a whole lot more! His dad donated some saw dust and rebuilt the stairs so they were safe to walk on again.

In all the time I've spent here my favourite things to do is the dead heading and picking vegetables. I enjoy the sense of accomplishment when I pick a Cucumbers or tomato but I love how beautiful the flower beds look after all the dead heads are cut off, it's definitely a hard decision which I like more.

I find working in the garden to be extremely relaxing and rewarding. I enjoy sitting by the fountain and listening to the lovely sounds on my breaks.

I love finding all the Volunteer plants from last year! I've found so many like lettuce, onion, and a blueberry bush! It's cool to know what people have planted here before I came along. I hope the flower seeds I planted stick around for years to come to bring the same smile to someone else's face when they find a little plant popping up!

I've enjoyed watching the garden grow over the months! All the new plants every new bud and seedling make me so happy.

I've learned how to get the seeds from a marigold, I've learned how to collect seeds from various other flowers as well

I've learned how to take better care of mint, basil and lemon balm.

I've learned a lot about what soil different plants like, for example corn likes acidic soil and grows well with beans.

I really loved working at the Burton Bee Happy Garden, I enjoyed planting the flower seeds and watching them grow, I felt so proud when they started to bloom. I did have a little trouble maintaining all the weeds in the beds and paths but a lot of kind people helped me besides the bees seemed to appreciate the weeds flowers a lot. The potatoes grew very well the leaves and manure helped a lot with keeping them healthy.

We got a lot of visitors throughout the time I worked and one told me an awesome story how he and a few friends dug up the space where the garden now grows and they used to use it as a horse race track!

AGREEMENTS:



PO Box 100, 205 – 6th Ave NW
Nakusp, British Columbia V0G 1R0
Phone: 250-265-3674 | Fax: 250-265-3378

**Shared Use Agreement
Between
Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services
And
Burton Community Association**

This Shared Use Agreement

Will be in effect from April 1st, 2022 to March 31st, 2024

Project Purpose, Philosophy or Vision

The purpose of the Arrow and Slocan Lakes Community Services (ASLCS) Food Access and Recovery Project is to strengthen the food system in the rural and remote community of Burton and surrounding areas, focusing on processes and infrastructure that will influence nutrition, food, healthy community development and agriculture. The project will increase access to quality local food and nutrition to vulnerable populations and support the local food bank. The project will implement a food recovery program to reduce the amount of food which would otherwise be wasted.

The purpose of the Burton Community Association (BCA) is to look after community assets for the benefit of area residents.

ASLCS Project Goals and Objectives

To manage the development of project infrastructure and provide the foundation for community programming and services in the areas of 1) food access, 2) food security, 3) information, education and skill building, 4) social connection, and 5) food recovery.

Burton Community Hall

BCA gives permission to ASLCS to use the hall for a minimum of two years for the purposes of the Project.

The kitchen improvements resulting from the Project at the Burton Community Hall be accessible and used for broad public benefit for a minimum of five years

Community Garden (location owned by the Burton Community Association)

BCA gives permission to ASLCS to use a parcel of land owned by the Burton Community Association (PID 016-022-581) for a minimum of two years for the purposes of the Project.

The community garden improvements resulting from the Project at PID 016-022-581 will be accessible and used for broad public benefit for a minimum of five years.

Upon completion of the 2-year project small non-permanent capital purchases i.e. rototillers, wheelbarrow, dehydrator will remain at the Community Kitchen and Community Garden locations. These assets will be the responsibility of the BCA and will be accessible and used for broad public benefit for a minimum of five years.

Program Management/Coordination

BCA will be responsible for maintaining the overall calendar of activities occurring at the Community Hall.

ASLCS will provide regular schedules of its planned activities to the BCA scheduling coordinator. From time to time adjustments to this planned schedule may be necessary. ASLCS understands that there could be the occasional scheduling conflict however, it is expected that every effort will be made by ASLCS and the BCA to minimize scheduling disruptions.

Keys to the facility will be provided to the ASLCS Project Coordinator for the duration of the two-year project.

Insurance

ASLCS will maintain the appropriate amount of liability insurance for the project duration.

Space Utilization

For many of the ASLCS educational activities the Kitchen and Community gardens will be used. From time to time the main Hall may be used to accommodate workshops and training sessions.

COVID Protocol

ASLCS will follow all Public Health orders in relation to COVID-19.

A comprehensive Gardener agreement was created.

In this agreement between the sponsoring nonprofit organization ASLCS, Burton Association and an individual gardener, the sponsoring organization agrees to allow an individual gardener to participate in the garden, and the gardener agrees to abide by the rules and give up any right to sue if injured in the garden.

These rules address the way a garden will operate, and outline the gardeners' privileges and responsibilities. The rules are designed to promote safety (for the participants and the property), prevent disputes, provide a fair dispute resolution process to keep disputes from escalating, and prevent disturbances to neighbouring property owners and residents.

BURTON HALL COMMUNITY KITCHEN

HIGHLIGHTS:

- With the generous CBT Grant funds, we have purchased several capital assets to improve the Burton Community kitchen including a new commercial refrigerator, gas range, oven hood fan & stainless workstation. Many of these appliances are on backorder and we anxiously await their arrival.
- Also food preservation equipment has or will be purchased such as a dehydrator, pressure cooker etc.
- As the garden winds down, we will focus on writing food safety plans in order to make the kitchen a commercial space. This way, food prepared in the kitchen can be sold in the future. We are grateful to Sylvia, a food safety consultant has offered to help write a few of our food safety plans ad a demonstration for future clients.
- We will offer a food safe program this winter
- This fall, several experienced community members we will utilize the kitchen to teach food preservation processes such as canning, freezing, dehydrating, etc, to community members free of charge.







