



The Power of Teamwork

No one likes getting up early, especially not on a Saturday! But our awesome volunteers are the exception to this rule. 17 of our finest came out on 3/28/09 at 9AM to help put together frames for our gardens and what a great job they did.



In a span of only 2 hours, these 17 volunteers managed to put together 35 frames (that's 1 frame approximately every 4 minutes)!



Not too shabby for a Saturday morning - Looks like we have a frame building record to break!



GP: Seen Around Town

On Saturday March 28th Ayer held it's first *Meet Your Neighbor* event. This was an opportunity for families and individuals that had moved to Ayer in the last 3 years to meet their neighbors and visit one of over 50 organizations and businesses that had set up tables; among them was GPGP's table, staffed by Trustee *Vicente Sanabria*.

Over 100 people came over to get a brochure or to talk with Vicente about GPGP. There were quite a few non-profits represented at this event and some people commented on the fact that GPGP's mission was unique. There was an expressed interest by people not eligible to receive our services to find out how GPGP can help them as well.



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Check out our new digs

It's that time of year again - Welcome to the 2009 growing season and Growing Places newsletter! For all you veteran growers and volunteers, welcome back. And to all the new faces in our family—we are happy to have you.



This year is a big year for us! We just cut the ribbon on our new location at Dunn & Company in Clinton, MA on 2/28/09. This new area is a big step for our organization and we look forward to serving everyone better with our spacious new home! Be sure to check out our website for pictures from the ribbon cutting ceremony.



As always you will find tips, recipes, stories and garden happenings in the Growing Times. We always love hearing from you so if you have some tips, tricks or recipes you would like to share please contact us and we can include them in the next issue.

We have a lot planned for this year and hope that you are ready for an excellent growing season! We wish you all perfect weather and lots of sun and look forward to seeing your gardens grow and grow!

Be sure to read through the newsletter and we will see you all soon!

- Growing Places Garden Project Team



Container Gardens are Coming!

In an effort to help even MORE people we are starting our very own Container Garden pilot project this season! This project will allow people who don't have much outdoor space to still have the benefit of growing their own fresh vegetables.

This program is spearheaded by our very own Connie Grabow and will be at the Leominster Housing Authority for this year only.



Participants will receive two large planting pots and one large trough as part of their planting package. This setup will allow for maximum space and crop yield.

This initiative will address challenges with housing insecurity, as well as an economical way to introduce an "entry level" product for people who aren't able to house three raised beds or are intimidated by the size of the beds.

We hope to be able to grow a majority of the crops that we do for raised bed gardens. This will be a great experiment and so far things are looking good. If you have any suggestions about this program please let us know. Stay tuned for more updates about these tiny, but soon to be plentiful, gardens!

Getting Involved

Harvard Ecumenical Youth Group



At Growing Places we have the service bug and it seems to be catching!

Recently the students (23 to be exact!) from the Harvard Ecumenical Youth Group came by to help us build some garden frames for this growing season.



They learned the importance of measurements and alignment and made sure these frame were built to last! Everyone also helped out with

putting together Growing Guides,

sorting all the seeds for our gardeners, and putting together all the first-year gardener start up kits.



Everyone did a fantastic job and we think that we have some future gardeners on our hands for sure!

We wanted to send out a special thanks to the Ecumenical Junior Youth Group Advisors: Debbie Noyes, Jeanne Jarosz, Kerri Stoffel and Cindy Steeves. Thank you for taking the time to plan and coordinate the event with us—we would love to have you guys come back any time!

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