

Gardening Together

Gardening Together is a program of partnership between Habitat for Humanity Homeowners, Lake County gardeners and Habitat for Humanity.

All involved appreciate and respect each other and Gardening Together's special relationship with Habitat for Humanity.

Each homeowner has one or two gardeners, serving as mentors, to help him. Other gardeners and community members volunteer at special events or solicit or donate plants, supplies and tools.

Each mentor listens, shows how problems may be solved and how to dig and plant a garden. The homeowner makes the decisions - he is in charge of his property and any work done. Gardening Together continues Habitat's philosophy in offering a "hand up, not a hand out."

During the first year homeowners are supplied with digging tools and compost as they work to prepare their soil. A small garden may be dug, some bright annuals and a few perennials may be planted. The following year, the soil may be further enriched and a vegetable garden planted. By the third year the homeowner will be ready to divide his first perennials - it will be his turn to share plants with the newest Habitat homeowners!

The season when a homeowner and mentor start to work together depends upon the completion of the home and the passing of inspections, the homeowner's participation in required meetings and the availability of a mentor.

Activities:

- Spring Meeting for all!
- Homeowners, Mentors and Volunteers complete applications.
- Homeowners and Mentors are introduced and start to plan.
- Friends donate or solicit and gather donations of plants, tools and compost.
- Homeowners prepare soil.
- Spring Work Day! Mentors, Volunteers, Friends and old homeowners prepare for this big event. The plants are set out. Snacks are prepared. Children and other adults in the home prepare to pitch in! Mentors will help the homeowners choose their plants. Homeowners and members of their households learn how to plant the gardens.
- Homeowners and Mentors stay in touch over the summer.
- Fall Work Day! - Homeowners, their families, mentors and volunteers gather to put the gardens to bed for the winter. Shrubs, small trees and bulbs may be available for planting.
- Time for another year to begin with the Spring Meeting!

For further information or just to talk about this program, please call Mary Jane Dybas at 847/362-7735 or email mjdybas@comcast.net.

Thank you for your interest in Gardening Together!

Gardening Together

Application by Homeowner

Name of Homeowner/s: _____

Address: _____

Phone numbers:

Home: _____ Cell: _____ Work: _____

Best time to call: _____

Email (if checked every day): _____ Do you send email? _____

Homeowner's working hours: _____

Best place and number to leave a message:

Members of household and ages - please include family members or any others who will be staying with you:

Name

Age

I have reviewed the information about Gardening Together and want to join the program. I know that I will have a mentor and will be given gardening tools and plants for my garden. I know that I am in charge of my own home and garden.

It is my responsibility to make sure Gardening Together and my mentor always have a phone number or email address where I can be reached. I will respond right away to calls, emails or letters from Gardening Together and my mentor. I will keep any information about my mentor confidential.

I know that I may drop out of the program at any time. Even though I may not be active in the program, I will offer my support and encouragement to new Habitat for Humanity Homeowners by donating plants from my garden and being a volunteer at meetings, work days and special events.

Signature

Date

Name

Gardening Together

Application to Mentor

I have read the information provided about Gardening Together. I appreciate and support the unique nature of the program and the special relationship Gardening Together has with Habitat for Humanity. I look forward to mentoring a new Homeowner as he/she works to beautify and maintain his/ her property.

Should I need to terminate my involvement with the program, I will advise Gardening Together in order that another mentor may be identified for the homeowner with whom I have been working.

In my role as mentor there may be disclosed to me certain personal information about the Organization, Homeowners and Family Information.

I agree that I shall not during, or at any time after the at-will termination of my volunteer status with Gardening Together or Habitat for Humanity, use for myself or others, or disclose, or divulge to others including future volunteers, any trade secrets, or confidential information about the Organization, the Homeowners or their families.

Signature

Date

Name