



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Sharon Holbrook-Ryan

Phone: 518-954-3265

Email: ryans@libertyarc.org



Liberty individuals are all smiles as they make a food donation delivery to the Fulmont Community Action Agency. Produce is from the FM community garden, a partnership between Liberty and FM college. The donation will assist local families in need. (Left to right: Mike Gotell, Tiffany Bottomly (in back), Rose Santana & Jenny Huertas-Fulmont Community Action Agency and Ryan Whitehouse.

A Bountiful Harvest Aids Local Families in Need

The partnership between Liberty and Fulton-Montgomery Community College (FM) is proving fruitful for all. Volunteers from both Liberty's Community Connection Group and FM staff have recently begun to harvest fruits and vegetables from the FM Community Garden, which was created in the fall of 2011. All crops from the garden are being donated to local community groups, such as Catholic Charities of Fulton & Montgomery Counties and the Fulmont Community Action Agency.

"The fresh vegetables that we've received from the garden have helped to stock our food pantry shelves with much needed items," Catholic Charities Executive Director John Nasso said. "We're not always able to provide fresh produce in our pantry and so the families we serve are pleased to receive food that is fresh, tasty and grown locally."

"These donations provide a nutritious choice to area low-income families who can't often afford fresh produce," said Jenny Huertas a Fulmont volunteer. "This much needed assistance really helps those in need."

A variety of vegetables and fruits are being picked, which include: peas, green beans, green and hot peppers, cherry and plum tomatoes, basil, spinach, cabbage, pumpkins, radishes and sweet corn.

“This is a win-win situation for everyone involved,” said Liberty CEO Mike Decker. “Local families in need are receiving fresh produce and the individuals we support are actively involved in their community and loving it! They look forward every week to tending the garden and watching the produce coming out of it. We are proud to be a part of this partnership with FM.”

“This has been a very successful community partnership,” said FM President Dr. Swanger. “The many projects involving Liberty individuals and FM faculty and staff are not only educational, but beneficial to our area residents.”

Liberty and FM, along with volunteers from both organizations, have been caretakers of the garden since its creation last fall. They oversee nine individual 10'x10' raised planter boxes for crop rotations and will soon be planting trees for various fruits surrounding the garden.

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