

# A special update for you

Thanks to your incredible and generous support, the 2023 growing season at both Garden Hubs was a 'blooming' success! We deeply appreciate this partnership, as it enabled us to make a significant difference in the lives of thousands of community members. By providing access to fresh, locally grown produce and fostering community engagement, the Garden Hubs have considerably increased food security for thousands of families. We are excited to share some notable accomplishments that have 'sprouted' from this partnership.



## FROM 'FARM'...

United Way is grateful to partner with Absolute Change Management and Niagara College Canada, who have generously donated the use of 88,500 square feet of fertile growing space. In addition to space, we are pleased to recognize these partners for their unwavering support of time, talent and resources. During the 2023 growing season, we were able to grow and distribute 11,602 lbs of fresh, healthy produce.



## ...TO TABLE

All of the fresh fruit, vegetables and herbs grown at both Garden Hubs were donated to agencies running food programs across the region. Every week, volunteers worked hard to harvest and package the produce for pickup. The bounty was donated to community pop-up produce markets in high-needs neighbourhoods and food banks or meal programs. To date, more than 9,000 families have benefited from this initiative!



Community organizations running affordable food markets in high needs neighbourhoods received ongoing produce donations throughout the season.



Agencies delivering meal or food programs received donations of fresh produce.



"I could see firsthand, that the quality of the fruit and vegetables being produced at the garden was excellent, reminding me of how valuable the remaining agricultural land below the escarpment is ... Rewarding relationships were built among the team and we knew our work was helping to achieve a very worthwhile objective. I look forward to 2024."

- David Sherlock, Garden Hub Volunteer

Thank you for your support:

### **Donors and Sponsors**

Absolute Change Management Bethesda Gardens Borderline The Brown Homestead and Humeniuk Foundation Dave & Barb Peters Freeman Herbs John Deere Foundation of Canada Kiwanis Club of St. Catharines Meridian Credit Union Beamsville Branch

### Volunteers

#### Groups

Algoma Central Corporation Brock Cares Students CIBC GenNext H&S Heat Treating John Deere KPMG Niagara Catholic District School Board Green Industries Niagara College Horticulture Classes Niagara College Horticulture Classes Niagara College Support Staff Niagara Region Public Health Community Health Brokers Ridley College Students Women United Meridian Credit Union Vineland Branch Niagara College Canada Niagara College Greenhouse Niagara Region Waste Salit Steel Stokes Seeds Walker Industries William Dam Seeds

#### Individuals

Catherine Ardila Ana Chap Heather & Nala Coutu Martha Cruikshank Carla Merediz Durant Teresa Rivera Flores Keenan George Elly Jenkyns Brittany Keller Cindy MacMillan Suzanne Merriam Kabir Rekhi David Sherlock Maninder Sodhi

"I heard firsthand how much it meant to people to be able to walk away with produce they otherwise could not afford. I heard the excitement of making toasted tomato sandwiches, butternut squash soup, adding fresh greens to dinner and just having pears on hand for a mid-day snack."

- Brandon Agnew, Niagara Region Public Health









