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Today, our *Kitchen Gardeners International* spotlight is on the Billy Mitchell Elementary School students that grow crops in Lawndale, California for the Lawndale Commodities Program. We can't single out one person in our story because everyone has had a hand in our project. As a team, they have joined forces to grow produce for their community members who do not have access to fresh fruits and vegetables. The 4' X 4' raised veggie bed, devoted to the Lawndale Commodities program, has been an on going team effort. The students built the bed, added the soil, mixed in the compost, planted seeds and seedlings and tended to their care. During the holidays, while their crops were growing, the students created holiday cards and decorated seed packets filled with cilantro seeds to hand out at the Commodities program. Our first harvest was very exciting. The students picked the first round of crops, weighed the bounty and carefully cleaned and packaged the items for delivery. Four deliveries have been dropped off, with a total weight of 37 pounds! Fresh produce is not always easy to acquire for the Commodities program, so they are enjoying the contribution the Mitchell students are providing. The crops so far have included, purple cabbage, Swiss chard, onions, radish, and broccoli. This summer, delicious tomatoes will be added to our list of donations. Working as a cohesive team, the Mitchell students have happily labored over this program with successful results. They have bear witness to not only the seed to fork food cycle, but the pure joy of knowing their work will help others savor the delicious tastes of farm fresh produce. Pride in ownership is a satisfying feeling for our little gardeners and is supremely evident in their beaming smiles and excited expressions!

Image (optional):

