



Published on *Kitchen Gardeners International* (<http://kgi.org>)

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Fri, 06/13/2014 - 14:27 -- hacfrederick

One of the most exciting things about the Lucas Village Community Garden is the diversity of our residents. We have families who grew up in big urban cities, seasoned gardeners who have lived on farms, and some families who have never gardened before. Today we meet Wrotee Jacobs-Quarva from Liberia, West Africa. In Liberia, Wrotee says they do much more home gardening. She planted her first garden when she was 12 ? it was full of sweet potato leaves and cassava and she remembers being so excited for the harvest. When she came to the states she found an opportunity to garden at Asbury Methodist Village but that was ten years ago and she found herself missing gardening when she moved to Frederick.

At present, she and her family are excited that they can get into gardening again through the Lucas Village Community Garden. Her husband, 5 year old, and 2 year old help her in the garden every week. They are growing sweet potato leaves, jute leaves, okra, collard greens, tomatoes, eggplant, peppers, and red cabbage. The jute leaf seeds and okra are from Liberia. Wrotee says that she finds gardening fun and likes to share some of the vegetables with family and friends, but she mentions it is also a great way to save money. Wrotee notes that 12oz of jute leaves at the international supermarket is \$1.99 and a pound of sweet potato leaves is \$2.99, so planting her own allows her to save. She thanks the staff at the Housing Authority and everyone at Kitchen Gardeners International for making the garden happen!

Image (optional):

