



Preschoolers at the garden

Tue, 05/28/2013 - 14:25 -- Roots Community...

Thomas Berry, *The Dream of the Earth*

?Teaching children about the natural world should be seen as one of the most important events in their lives.?

At Roots Community Garden our goal is twofold:

1) To give families in need an opportunity to grow healthy foods **and** in this process 2) create a stronger connected community.

In 2012, our birth year, we were able to commit to and fulfill our goal. Goals need sustainability and this was we met through the generous donations of our community partners, private donors, grants and through the very families that volunteer at the garden. This being our second year, we are looking at sustainability in the broader sense and have put it to question:

*How do we continue to help POC families grow healthy foods, connect our community **and** touch the very future lives of those that will one day ignore or respect the land (the latter being our wish)?*

Once again, our donors, grantees and volunteers have answered the call to help us successfully begin the 2013 growing season and once again begin to fulfill our twofold goal. But what of those that will one day ignore or respect the earth? It became evident that we needed to reach out to the little ones that run and play at Roots Community Garden while their parents and caregivers volunteer their time.

This weekend we were able to reach out to our local preschool program and have an educational excursion to the garden. Despite a very wet week, the sun shone brightly at Roots Community Garden and the air was full of the laughter and oohs and aahs of the little ones. Once again, ROLE members answered the call to educate preschoolers and their parents on the importance of growing your own food, on respecting the earth and the little creatures that inhabit it. It was awe inspiring to see ROLE women give back not just to the here and now community, but to our very future as they educated the little ones about nature.

Thanks to our grants we were able to purchase lady bugs and praying mantis? that were introduced to the garden by the children. They planted plant pumpkin seeds, enjoyed stories about lady bugs and other insects, made insect arts and crafts and bird feeders out of toilet paper rolls to hang in their own homes. We finished our day with games and more laughter.

Close to 40 preschoolers visited the garden that day and we are certain that 40 seeds of admiration for earth have been planted and will begin to flourish.

To teach one child about respecting our treasure Earth, is to teach multiple generations about caring for fellow man, building community and helping fulfill the original plan of living at peace and respecting the

land. RCG

Image (optional):

