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Bed-Stuy Campaign Against Hunger Urban Farm: Thanks to Sow it Forward!

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The Bed-Stuy Campaign Against Hunger (BSCAH) Urban Farm has undergone monumental progress during the first half of the growing season. This winter, we secured permission to develop another 7,000-square-foot plot, in partnership with two schools near our food pantry. After several collaborative planning sessions with all of the stakeholders, we built raised beds and brought in the soil. Just this past week, 25 middle school students braved the heat and joined us in shoveling the soil and planting the first plants. With this new plot, we have three times the garden space. We are already reaching the potential to grow that much more fresh, nutritious produce for our pantry and to engage that many more community members in forging a healthier, sustainable, and just food system. We bought plants and seeds for the new plot with the Sow it Forward grant, just one example of how Sow it Forward really has taken our garden forward.

The Sow it Forward grant has also supported our other high-impact urban gardening initiatives. We run three community wellness programs -- Healthy BLOOMers for young children, Stomp Out Obesity for adolescents, and Health 360 for seniors -- that feature interactive workshops about nutrition, healthy cooking, fitness, and gardening. Graduates of Stomp Out Obesity become Green Teens, experienced youth gardeners who help with the maintenance and advancement of the BSCAH Urban Farm. The Green Teens have taken on new leadership by helping senior citizens in the neighborhood to start or expand their own home gardens. In partnership with Feedback Farms, we built 12 high-yield, sub-irrigated planters that the Green Teens helped to deliver, install, and plant at the seniors' homes. The Sow it Forward grant enabled us to purchase the planters for this project. This intergenerational teamwork has inspired our Green Teens to reach their potential as community leaders, and we are certain that they will "sow forward" these lessons and experiences. They will carry forward our mission to end hunger and improve health in our community.

Image (optional):

against-hunger-urban-farm-thanks-sow-it-forward