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Thanks to KGI for "Sowing It Forward" with Baxter Community Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan! Located in an urban area with little access to fresh foods, Baxter Community Center's *In the Garden* program strives to provide community members with a readily available, affordable source for fresh produce and to create programming which will enhance nutritional education, environmental awareness, and community spirit.

We've got our hands in the dirt and our hearts in the community?growing over 500lbs of fresh produce for our food pantry, distributing free vegetable seedling starts from our greenhouse to 52 neighbors, offering monthly gardening and canning classes, and hosting community events, cook-offs, garden walks, and farmer's market carpools.

This spring, 19 neighborhood families became a part of our new Raised Bed Program, receiving free garden beds, supplies, and garden mentors each year for the next 5 years to begin growing food in their own backyards! Pictured here is Ms. Ina McGee, one of our neighbors in the program, with her first Square Foot Garden!

Through the KGI Sow It Forward grant, we were able to purchase gardening tools, a capillary watering system, composting equipment, organic pest control options, and 10 new books which will be incorporated into our community lending library. The library currently includes seeds and books, and we are hoping to be able to add tools and canning equipment soon! Thanks again to KGI and all of the supporters that made the Sow It Forward Grants possible!

Image (optional):

