

Community Garden Partnership Receives Fiskars Grant

by [Susan Richardson](#)

Community Garden Partnership Program Director

I am pleased to announce that Community Garden Partnership is one of 20 grant recipients for Fiskars' Project Orange Thumb, a grant program that provides community garden groups with the tools and materials they need to reach their goals for neighborhood beautification and horticulture education.

Fiskars donated \$1,000 in the latest gardening tools and \$1,000 in cash to our program and to each of the other 19 organizations selected this year.

We are thrilled and honored to be chosen by Fiskars as an organization worthy of their award, especially since we were competing with a pool of 1,300 applicants from throughout the U.S. and Canada.

To date, Project Orange Thumb has supported more than 115 community groups with nearly \$1 million to create and develop their own special community gardens. These include garden projects geared toward community involvement, neighborhood beautification, sustainable agriculture and/or horticulture education.

Applicants for this year's grant program were encouraged to share why their garden would be chosen as one of the world's most interesting gardens 50 years from now. In our application, we talked about how people want to have some control over how they get their food and the role of the Community Garden Partnership in helping them accomplish just that.

We know that while getting food at the food pantry helps people in need, it doesn't offer a means of self-sufficiency and community. Our program provides a place and the supplies to create a community of gardeners, who not only learn how to grow, harvest, prepare and preserve fresh food, but also how to develop a sense of community by sharing memories, family stories and traditions with their fellow gardeners.

The heart of our grant was the reclamation of those traditions within a shared place of community. To receive this award is an acknowledgement of the value of Community Garden work and the community of gardeners who believe that they have the skills to make it happen!