

## Benefits

DeKalb County Community Gardens recognizes that gardening has a positive impact on the community in a multitude of ways. Community garden projects have been shown to

- Improve the quality of life for the people involved with the garden
- Be a catalyst for neighborhood and community development
- Produce nutritious food
- Reduce family food budgets
- Encourage self-reliance
- Increase agricultural literacy
- Provide an outlet for sustainable gardening practices
- Beautify neighborhoods
- Provide opportunities for intergenerational and cross-cultural connections
- Create opportunity for recreation, exercise, therapy, and education

## Need

Community gardens are an effective strategy for our county for several reasons. First is the issue of food insecurity. In DeKalb County, one in five children is currently food insecure. We also have several pockets or sections of our county that would be considered “food deserts,” because families and individuals are cut-off from easy access to wholesome foods.

By strategically targeting areas of need, DCCG is working to provide nutritious food directly to those in our community who are under-served through providing resources for community garden projects and creating links to area feeding centers. In 2013, DCCG was able to donate over 16,000 pounds of vegetables to residents in need.

## Contact

If you are interested in becoming involved in the effort, to inquire about starting your own neighborhood garden, or to join the discussion, there are many ways to reach us.

**DCCG on Facebook**  
**our website: [www.dekalbgardens.org](http://www.dekalbgardens.org)**  
**email our director Dan Kenney at [dkenney53@hotmail.com](mailto:dkenney53@hotmail.com)**  
**or write: DCCG PO Box 348, DeKalb, IL**



## DeKalb County Community Gardens

**Strengthens access to fresh,  
local, sustainably-grown  
organic food for people in  
need.**

## About Us

### Mission

Dekalb County Community Gardens is an innovative approach to end hunger at the local level through community involvement, education, and a commitment to the environment. Our primary objective is to strengthen access to fresh, local, sustainably-grown organic food for people in need.

### Who We Are

At our core is a group of concerned citizens, educators, parents, farmers, community activists, and master gardeners who have come together, bringing with them a wealth of knowledge and experience.



## Gardens

### Sites

What began as a small garden plot behind Brooks Elementary in 2009 has expanded to include over 36 sites, more than 200 raised beds, with over 15 acres of land dedicated to growing food in neighborhoods throughout the county.

Located at schools, businesses, municipalities, community sites, child care centers, and senior living facilities, DCCG is providing access and opportunity for citizens all across the county to engage in the joys of food production at many levels.

## We Love to See Our Community Grow

### Partnerships

In our short history, DCCG has developed over 60 partnerships all around DeKalb County. The past two years we have been teamed up with the Kishwaukee Health System and Kishwaukee Family YMCA as they participate in the Live Healthy DeKalb County initiative. The program is focused on helping to promote healthy behavior in our area by encouraging exercise, nutrition, and easy access to healthy activities through public policy. As addressing the problem of food deserts in our community tops our list, we are a proud participant. This partnership along with the generous donations of local businesses, concerned citizens, and grants is essential to the work we do in the community. Many thanks to all who have contributed!

### Volunteers

The vision, creativity, and hard work of volunteers are what make DCCG projects possible and we are eager to see our numbers grow. Before the first seed is sown, through harvest, there are many ways to get involved, both in and out of the garden. We welcome you to come and learn, teach, and share in the bounty of our community!