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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Campers Plant Vegetable Gardens at YMCA Camp

Campers attending the Camp Shiawassee YMCA Summer Youth Program planted two vegetable gardens on June 4th with the guidance of the Shiawassee Conservation District. They planted a variety of vegetables including tomatoes, carrots, peppers, broccoli and beans. The Conservation District will assist the campers in maintaining the gardens throughout the summer.

It is important to understand where the food we eat each day comes from. We see a wide variety of products in our grocery store – but where do they originate? By being the primary caretakers of the gardens, campers will see firsthand how seeds mature into plants that produce the foods they eat. To compliment the gardens, the Conservation District will hold weekly sessions involving fun activities and games to educate campers on sustainable agriculture and conservation.

Materials from the National Association of Conservation District's "Soil to Spoon" program will be utilized to help show the connection between soil and food. What is the connection to the soil we walk on each day and the food we eat? It is a focus of this educational program to teach the campers the answer to that question. By the end of the



summer, the campers will know where their food comes from before it is stocked on the grocery store shelves.

The camp gardens and sustainable agriculture education program is made possible through a grant awarded to the Conservation District from USDA's Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education program. Visit the Conservation District on Facebook or on their website at www.shiawasseeccd.org to follow the progress of the gardens through harvest.

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[Shiawassee Conservation District](http://www.shiawasseeccd.org)

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