**Make Health Happen ESTL Garden Coordinator Club Meeting Minutes**

**February 6, 2023**

**Present:** Rima Abusaid, Bhagya, Tiffany Davis, Pastor Pettiford, Seth Hamilton, Dr. Jennifer Zuercher, Sarah Ruth, Olivia Middendorf, Starr Gibson

**Check-in with Garden Sites**

1. **Last Gardening season updates, challenges, success and plans for this year :**

* **SIUE Charter School Garden:** Dr. Z shared that their team is working on connecting to plan for this years growing season
* **CAC Garden:** Seth shared that the students will be doing data planning to plan out for this year
  + He shared that they have lots of peppers frozen from last year and shared that the organization hired a program coordinator who will help apply the same sales entrepreneurship model at the high school.
* **East Side Health District Garden:** Bhagya shared that the garden didn’t do so well last year, but they are receiving a grant that will be utilized to try and maximize efforts for this year
* **Lalumier Garden:** Rima shared that the garden ran into challenges with gaining buy-ins for sustainability. The garden also ran into water issues, which was resolved with the help of Joy from Agesmart. Joy also secured a weed eater donated by Lowes for the garden. The team will be working on planning for this year and hope to address some of last years challenges in the planning session

1. **Master Gardener Updates:**

* Sarah shared that the following online training for master gardeners starts June 12th. Applications will be due in May. Sarah will have training details available in March. There will also be another online training in the fall and hybrid classroom training in the fall.

**Garden Expo: Arbor Day**

Bhagya shared that there are seven grants up to $2000 each available that gardens can apply for. The application information for that will be released soon. She also shared information regarding the Arbor day garden Expo event happening on April 29th. Anyone who would like to be a vendor for this event can reach out to her to sign up. Many activities will be happening during the event, and workshops regarding gardening will be there for participants. Gardening kits are also available for those who are interested in starting a garden. Bhagya also encouraged sharing the names/ organizations of anyone who is interested in starting a garden and would like some funds.

Seth shared that a real estate agent is collecting data on Vacant lots that could be turned into community gardens.

Bhagya shared that a fruit tree planting foundation provides grants to provide fruit trees for low-income areas. You can use this link to apply [https://www.ftpf.org/apply](https://urldefense.com/v3/__https:/www.ftpf.org/apply__;!!DZ3fjg!8cy_trpdZtCFLV6UKEJAEwowFqsQNMiNneDWC9_CDmAWwCl3c_foB6XoAL7rINFJE-B1JuXwdqslRez3$)

ESTL Garden Coordinator Club meetings will be on the first Monday of each month at 1:30 PM