

CMHA RESIDENTS SHOW THEIR GREEN THUMBS

The First-Ever CMHA Green Teams Learn and Grow On the Job

This year, CMHA began a new work-study program, called Green Team. With the new program, interested residents are able to learn about gardening and horticulture. There are currently three Green Teams at Cedar Family Estates, Willson Estate, and Crestview Estate. Each of them is very different, but very successful.

The Willson Green Team grows at the smallest garden without a perimeter fence. They are very fortunate to have the least amount of weeds in their garden. They are a tight knit group that truly cares about their garden, their plants, and their neighborhood. Antomica Evans writes, "The best part of my day is being in the garden with Brittany and my coworkers." The Willson Garden has been growing vegetables such as tomatoes, peppers, radishes, dill, basil, chives, and the best collards around.

The Cedar Green Team started a little late this summer, and has the biggest challenges with weeds. However, they have made the most drastic transformation of all. The Cedar Team works very hard in the garden but has the most fun during the weekly lessons. The resident gardeners are learning about the biology of plants, growing food, and the history and future of gardens in Cleveland, as well as about themselves and each other. It is wonderful to see how each of them gains more knowledge about the garden every week.

The Crestview Green Team not only has the challenge of the largest garden, but also that of starting their garden from scratch. The Crestview Team learns from class but also from each other, making them truly inspirational. CMHA Landscape Specialist Brittany Barski said, "Each member of the team has a strength that helps the entire group. Every time I see them, the garden is dramatically changed. They all work more than they are scheduled and go the extra mile to make their garden grow."

Overall, the first group of Green Teams has been extremely successful. All of the Green Team members are proud of their hard work and their gardens. Barski adds, "I am proud of all of them. Please stop by any and all of the gardens and get some vegetables that have been grown with dedication and pride."