Ventura County’s Senior Nutrition Program Garden

The County of Ventura’s Senior Nutrition Program Garden is a collaborative effort among local government, nonprofits and private businesses to provide fresh, local produce to the Senior Meals Program. The Senior Meals Program is active in every community, serving over 200,000 healthy meals annually! In addition to home-delivered meals, Ventura County’s Senior Lunch Programs provide an opportunity for seniors to stay active through volunteerism and to socialize. The Senior Nutrition Program Garden enables seniors to mentor youth “in sustainable gardening practices, availing of Ventura County’s greatest natural resource, its agricultural fertility.”

Tomatoes are a great source of vitamin C!

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VENTURA COUNTY Vaaa AREA AGENCY ON AGING
To Serve. To Guide. To Envision.

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ENTRANCE LOCATED NEAR FOOD SHARE INC.
4156 Southbank Road
Oxnard, CA
(805) 477-7300
FRESH LOCAL Produce

The coastal Oxnard plain is one of the most fertile areas in the nation, yet the Ventura County Senior Meals Program was purchasing tomatoes from Chile! To be able to provide seniors in our community fresh local produce and to reduce the impacts on the environment and the economy resulting from purchasing produce from elsewhere, a few concerned County employees decided to establish a local vegetable garden. In 2009, the County of Ventura Probation Agency and the Area Agency on Aging developed a unique partnership to grow fresh produce on land behind the Juvenile Justice Facility in Oxnard. As word of the project spread, local agri-businesses became interested and have donated their time, expertise and resources. The first season we grew 29,000 cherry tomatoes! In the Garden’s second season, the land available to farm increased from one quarter of an acre to two, allowing the addition of fruit trees, asparagus, green beans, carrots, snap peas, and beets.

Feeding the Future

Senior volunteers work side by side mentoring the young farmers-to-be and at-risk youth. All of the produce grown at the Senior Nutrition Program Garden goes to feeding seniors directly through senior meal programs, such as home-delivered meals and the local food bank. One of our current projects includes building a patio area from recycled concrete, where outdoor classes will be held surrounded by the fruits and vegetables of our labor!

JOIN US FOR Lunch!

Senior Nutrition congregate and home-delivered meals programs are operated by our partners in cities countywide. There is no charge for lunch if you are 60 years of age or older; however, many meal participants gladly offer a donation. Participant donations are a critical means of sustaining the Senior Nutrition Program and are always appreciated.

Commitment to Success

The following businesses have contributed generously to the success of the Senior Nutrition Program Garden: Harry’s Berries, Rincon Vitova Insectaries, Rio Mesa Farms, Agromin, S & E Organic Farms, Coast Water Solutions, Seminis, Green Thumb International, Brokaw Nurseries, Bikers for Christ, City of Santa Paula, Oxnard City Corps, Vineyard Mutual Water District, FOOD Share, Technical Dynamix, Driscoll Farms, Sierra Cascade Construction, Corona Seed Company, Molding Corporation of America, Limoneira, Doright’s Plant Growers.