

The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc.
“Plant America.... Starting at Home”

One of the President’s Projects for The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. is reflected in the theme for 2021-2023, “Plant America.... Starting at Home.” What better way to “Plant America.... Starting at Home” than to share our love of gardening as we share the bounty from our gardens with our neighbors in need? Our clubs also shared recipes and information about the donated produce and invited the public to attend their meetings, events and to visit their gardens.

As I travelled around the state attending club, district and state events, members were encouraged to donate food from their gardens as well as purchased food such as spaghetti sauce, cans of tuna, boxes of cereal, etc. This project was also publicized in our state newsletter, *GardenGlories*, e-mail blasts (Constant Contact) and communications between the district directors, club presidents, club members and me.

Clubs reported donations of produce and purchased food to their local food pantries with combined totals of 8,600 pounds of home-grown fruits, vegetables and herbs; 1,384 cans of food such as tuna, soup, vegetables and fruit; 369 packages of food such as boxes of cereal, bags of rice and crackers.

The Garden Clubs of Illinois, Inc. helps the people in our communities who are food insecure with food donations and we hope that we also inspire them to plant some of their own food-producing plants at their own homes.

Marilyn Krueger, President
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