



Good Deeds Abound

Living on a planet where so many things seem to go wrong, we are always pleased when we can point out something that's going right. Here are three recent local efforts that are making a positive difference in the world.

What do gardeners do when their perennials get too big for their space? Divide them and give the offspring to their neighbors, of course. So does the **Lurie Garden in Chicago's Millennium Park**, which divides plants in spring and fall and then donates them to dozens of NeighborSpace-protected community gardens across the city.

A recipient of plants this past May was the Artists' Garden, located on four city lots just north of the South Chicago Art Center, 3217 E. 91st St. While much of the garden is devoted to food crops, the plants donated this past spring went into a 75-foot long, 5-foot wide parkway garden that will showcase native plants.

In June, **Burpee Home Gardens**, whose parent company is Ball Horticultural in West Chicago, helped Chicago public school students plant 400 vegetable and herb plants. This event was part of Burpee's "I Can Grow" program, which works nationwide to assist school and community gardens and to help teach young people about nutrition, food production, environmental awareness and social responsibility.

In Chicago, there were planting events at five schools and Common Threads, a nonprofit that teaches children healthy cooking. For more information, go to www.burpeehomegardens.com/ICanGrow.

Kraft Foods, which is also jumping on the local food bandwagon, recently announced a partnership with the **Chicago Botanic Garden** to build and maintain an 8,000-square-foot vegetable garden at its headquarters in Northfield. The garden was planted earlier this summer and is being maintained through the botanic garden's Windy City Harvest program. Participants in a nine-month training course enroll at Daley College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago, and earn an advanced continuing education certificate in sustainable horticulture and urban agriculture. All food from the Kraft garden will be donated to local agencies, including soup kitchens and food pantries in the networks of the Greater Chicago Food Depository and the Northern Illinois Food Bank and to Women, Infant and Children (WIC) centers in Cook and Lake Counties. The garden is expected to yield 14,000 pounds of food, equivalent to 28,000 meals.

— Carolyn Ulrich