

Tubman Students Plant Veggie Garden

WI Staff Report

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Enthusiasm and education about youth gardening were lessons of the day Wed., May 4 at Harriet Tubman Elementary School in Southeast, where students and staff from local nonprofit Kid Power, Inc., along with Burpee Home Gardens experts, expanded its VeggieTime academic and nutritional after-school program by planting six new garden beds.

Kid Power is one of five grand prize winners in the 2011 Burpee Home Gardens® "I Can Grow" Youth Garden Award, selected from more than 220 applications of community and urban school gardens from across the nation.

Students planted more than 200 vegetable and fruit plants in the six new garden beds located in front of the school. But before digging in the dirt, enthusiastic students received words of encouragement from Kid Power founder and executive director Max Skolnik; Diane Hund, director of marketing for Burpee Home Gardens; and Drew Ealens, director for the Office of Public Engagement for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The message was simple: Growing and eating fresh, nutritious vegetables and fruits is a good habit that can last a lifetime.

"The enthusiasm of the kids today was contagious, and it was impressive to see their knowledge base about plants and gardening," Hund said.

Kid Power was selected as a Burpee Home Gardens "I Can Grow" Youth Garden Award grand prize winner based on its comprehensive plan for youth-centered educational programs that serve 275 students by emphasizing nutrition and food production, environmental awareness, social responsibility and scholastic integration, including VeggieTime.

Harriet Tubman Elementary School was the site in December 2010 where President Obama signed into law the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010. The legislation included substantial improvements that help provide children with more nutritious food options, and teach them about making healthy food choices today, tomorrow and the rest of their lives.

To see how this school garden is flourishing throughout the year, please visit the Burpee Home Gardens blog at www.burpeehomegardens.com and Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BurpeeHomeGardens. WI



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