Hunger in the Heartland

What can you do to help?

Beth Rydberg
Why a garden?
Poverty in Polk County

• Right here in Des Moines’s metro:
• 68% of employed food pantry consumers earn $8 per hour or less and just 7% earn $10 per hour or more
• 87% have monthly household income of $1500 or less ($18,000/year)
• 1,540 households (4,300 people) borrow money to pay their rent/mortgage
• 2,860 households (8,000 people) will need to move to cheaper housing due to insufficient household resources
The Community Where we are located

1-5 children in the Metro Area are food insecure
That means they can’t be sure where their next meal is coming from........
Doesn’t seem right does it.
The Urbandale/Windsor Heights food pantry has seen a tremendous increase in families needing assistance. So much that they now can only give 3 days supply of food vs 5
Grow the Food.org

- Wow! What a growing season it was....from all local food pantry gardens nearly 30,000 pounds of vegetables were donated to food pantries in 2012!!
- To put that number in perspective, last year 15,000 pounds of vegetables were donated all total from the local food pantry gardens.
Community Youth Concepts
Urban Harvest
How is the garden designed

• The garden is designed on 50 ft rows
• Vertical gardening is used as much as possible
• Not an organic garden but we use no commercial fertilizer and minimal pesticides
• Try to do some different growing techniques
Volunteers

- Youth groups
- Schools
- Service organizations
- Communication
Budget
There is no budget
Not only growing food...
But growing community
Contact us

Urban Harvest
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Find us on Facebook at Urban Harvest