Community Alliance for Education and Hunger Relief

AES Research Center Conference January 11, 2017
History

2009 – 2014

• Grow Another Row partnership with WCRC began in 2009
• WCRC donations to hunger relief mainly channeled through Grow Another Row

2015
• Commitment by WCRC to donate available fruit
• Expansion of community harvests

2016
• Continuation of community harvests
• Engagement with preK and K-12 students began
What we learned

Problems

Hunger Relief
• Foodbanks need fresh produce
• Vegetables especially hard to obtain

Education
• Despite demand, there can be a lack of knowledge of vegetable preparation
• Limited opportunities for experiential education in large scale food production

Resources

• CSU core mission of community engagement
• WCRC produces high-quality produce and does not rely on remuneration
• Community volunteers can safely and efficiently harvest produce
• Existing infrastructure in Mesa County can handle large scale produce donations without significant financial investment

• Family and Consumer Science CSU Extension agent expertise in nutrition
• WCRC can be an outdoor classroom for education without impacting the research taking place at the Center.
The Community Alliance

Mission

• Increase the amount of food available for hunger relief
• Involve the community in the acquisition of the food
• Bring together a network of organizations to provide unique educational opportunities to the community
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Harvests

Veg production

Education

Community

Youth groups

Math & Science Center

Riverside Education

CSU Extension

Food Bank of the Rockies

WCCC

Sodexo

School District 51

Community Alliance

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School District 51
Community Harvests
Community Harvests

- Estimated 32,000 pounds of apples and 4,000 pounds of peaches directed to hunger relief
- Will require significant upscaling of past volunteer efforts ~ 500 volunteers
- Volunteers will undergo food safety training
- Volunteers take home produce
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- Will require significant upscaling of past volunteer efforts ~ 500 volunteers
- Volunteers will undergo food safety training
- Volunteers take home produce
- Volunteers will come from community organizations, employee groups, religious institutions, schools, and hunger relief agencies.
- Harvests provide a unique opportunity for beneficiaries to acquire food
Vegetable Production
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- 5 acres of vegetables cultivated at WCRC Orchard Mesa
- 5 acres of sweet corn cultivated at WCRC Fruita
- WCCC sustainable agriculture class in the spring and two paid WCCC interns in the summer and fall
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- WCCC sustainable agriculture class in the spring and two paid WCCC interns in the summer and fall
- Three clients, each modeling different delivery systems
Education
K-12 Enrichment

- School Field trips in spring
- Engagement with CSU STEM and 4-H Extension Agents and/or curriculum
- School field trips in fall – service learning
K-12 Enrichment

- School Field trips in spring
- Engagement with CSU STEM and 4-H agents
- School field trips in fall – service learning
- Ongoing enrichment throughout growing season modeled on Dig In! camp
Nutrition Education

- Engagement in orchards
- Engagement with K-12
- Recipe cards
Funding

- Budget mainly salary-based to pay for Program Coordinator, two WCCC student interns, and WCCC farm instruction summer stipend.
- Applying for federal, state, and local grants.
- Received $20,000 in support from Rocky Mountain Health Plans Foundation
The Community Alliance for Education and Hunger Relief is supporting the local community through engagement and service.

The Community Alliance partnerships can extend throughout the state and the CSU system.

Wrap-Up