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## Gardening for the Hungry

### Library's Community Garden Helping to Meets Growing Food Need

NEWTON – The Library's Community Garden in Newton is harvested once a week and the produce is given to the Corner Table to be cooked and distributed to those in need. This week, the library donated nearly 50 pounds to the Corner Table, providing fresh, organically grown produce. April Green – youth librarian, garden organizer and founder - said she's proud of the amount of produce collected since the first planting of the garden. "We have collected almost 100 pounds of vegetables for the needy this year and that does not include the produce that is just now starting to ripen."

In July the library garden began yielding squash and this week the harvest basket included squash, watermelon, peppers and cucumbers. Summer Lee Jenkins, Executive Director of the Corner Table, remarked that "the community garden is an asset to this community for many reasons, not only does the garden provide fresh produce for us to include in our meals, but it has created opportunities for individuals in our area to get involved and make a difference for those in need."

Jenkins went on to say, "the Library's community garden is a great initiative to address food insecurities in our county, and we are forever thankful for the partnership created through this program."

If you like to get your hands dirty, there are plenty of opportunities to participate in Library's Community Garden! Interested volunteers will work alongside seasoned horticultural professional and Youth Librarian April Green, to plant, maintain and harvest the crop. Volunteers should be at least 17 years of age or have a parent/guardian's legal consent. No experience is required. To volunteer, or for more information, email [agreen@catawbacountync.gov](mailto:agreen@catawbacountync.gov) or call (828) 465-8668.

For the latest in library news, visit the library's news site at <http://enewsletter.catawbacountync.gov/library> or stop by your local branch.



**About:** *The Catawba County Library System, headquartered in Newton, NC, serves the citizens of Catawba County with seven branches throughout the county and is a year-round, integral provider of early literacy and lifelong learning. In addition to traditional services, the system provides a full complement of computer and digital services, classes and support to bridge the digital divide, empower job seekers, and enhance community quality of life and economic health.*