

BRIC GARDEN HIGHLIGHTS

Lalumier School Community Garden



Lalumier Elementary garden faced challenges over the summer with water flooding and a lack of volunteers. Despite those challenges, and with the help of Mt. Zions food pantry's managers, Pastor and Mrs. Bowden, the garden did not fail to provide produce to the community. With an abundance of tomatoes, Okra, and Zucchini, the harvested produce was donated to the local food pantry, where community members could utilize it to make healthy meals. The University of Illinois Extension provided the pantry with healthy recipes for the families to go along with the produce they received. By the end of October, at the end of the gardening season, the University of Illinois Extension hosted a garden work day where a group of 4-H Tuscan teens got involved. Teens on an educational trip from Arizona as part of their 4-H program spent a morning at the garden to help clean it up and close it for the end of the season. Through the workday, 4-H students learned a lot about food insecurity in the area and how the garden helps increase access to fresh produce for community members.

Christian Activity Center ESTL



The Christian Activity Center Community Garden had a very successful gardening season. Through partnership With Go! International, the program helped youth lead gardening and maintenance efforts of planting over 1,000 plants, serving five markets over the summer. Not only did the garden help serve the community, but it also became a learning center for students who gained entrepreneurship experience through leading the gardening efforts.