COMMUNITY GARDEN DONATION REQUEST

Our church has long envisioned starting a Community Garden to supplement the food pantry and to build meaningful community connections. We realized that it was imperative to involve several town entities for the garden to be a success.

We are thrilled to announce that a committee has been formed, and we are developing a plan to begin the garden in the spring. The garden’s mission statement is as follows: *The Garden* *is dedicated to creating a vibrant,*

*inclusive space where residents of all ages can grow vegetables and flowers, foster environmental stewardship, build meaningful community connections, and support local food pantries through shared gardening experiences.*

The Community Garden will be located at the Hilltop Senior Center behind the solar panels. Plot styles (framed/raised) and sizes are flexible. There will be a minimal yearly fee of ($35) per plot. We will have the Garden area marked out and ready for tours by early fall, with planting beginning in the spring.

We hosted a Q&A town meeting on June 10th at the Burnham Library, and there was much excitement about the project. We have contacted Shepaug’s Agriscience Academy to enlist the help of their students (great experience & service hours).

A few examples of our long-term plans include offering gardening educational programs that will be taught at the Burnham Library, hosting annual dinners for Bridgewater residents highlighting the garden’s bounty, and a mentoring program for seniors working with children to introduce them to the joys of gardening.

The committee is currently researching options and obtaining estimates for fencing, soil, ground preparation, irrigation, etc. The approximate cost for

labor & materials is $20,000.

We are requesting either in-kind contributions or financial donations. We have set up a DBA and donations can be made out to: BRIDGEWATER COMMUNITY GARDEN and mailed to Hilltop Center (Attn: Kathy Creighton, Director), 132 Hut Hill Road, Bridgewater, CT 06752.

Please reach out to any of the garden’s committee members to answer your questions:

Julie Stuart, Bridgewater Land Trust

Kathy Creighton, Hilltop Senior Center Director

Jean Kallay, Burnham Library Director

Walt Barlow, Consultant

Wendy Jones, Roxbury-Bridgewater Garden Club

Paula West, Resident Gardener

Sue Muszala, Resident Garner

Abby Gackenheimer, Bridgewater Congregational Church Pastor

Deb Tickell, St. Mark’s Episcopal Church

Candy Smith, Congregational Church Mission & Outreach

Thank you for helping us to transform underutilized land into a thriving

community resource, and providing our food pantry with fresh produce for those in need!