



# 2014 Harvest Report



*Our mission: cultivating food security by developing community gardens, creating opportunities to serve, and providing education on issues related to hunger.*



**100+ gardens created since 2005**



**82.5 TONS of produce grown in 2014**



**All 3 of Omaha's largest food pantries are Big Garden sites.**

**23 new garden builds this year**

- 5 in the metro-Omaha area
- 4 in small-town Nebraska
- 7 in southwest Iowa
- 7 in Kansas

**2,502 people volunteered more than 5 hours of their time working in the gardens each week**

*This year, the clients of the food pantry have taken ownership of their food: planting, maintaining, and harvesting the gardens. As a result, our clients enjoyed a steady stream of greens, lettuce, spinach, okra, squash, basil, jalapeños, onions, and tomatoes. On behalf of the over 80,000 clients our food pantries serve in the Hunger Collaborative, I can only say thank you Big Garden, and God bless United Methodist Ministries.*

*Craig Howell  
The Hunger Collaborative*

**The Big Garden network fed more than 10,008 people in 2014**





This spring, the Big Garden hired Cait Caughey of Botna Burrow Farm to serve as Programming and Education Coordinator for the Big Garden. Since March, Cait has developed 3 distinct curricula pertaining to interns, children & youth, and adults. These comprehensive curricula were used throughout our summer programming and are available free-of-charge to Big Garden sites in the Omaha metro area.

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### Big Garden summer programming stats:

- 10 weeks of classes
- 6 locations
- worked with 200+ children each week



### Volunteers in Mission program at a glance:

- hosted mission teams from 5 states
- over 175 volunteers this year
- hosted several women's church groups
- held two "Days of Service"
- hosted volunteers from 8 separate corporations, non-profits, and schools



*United Methodist Ministries was pleased to host a Kindergarten team from Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City for the third year in a row. The team, comprised of seven children, their mothers, and two adult leaders, spent two days in mission with us. While in Omaha, the group prepared a Big Garden site for the growing season, sorted clothing at the Open Door Mission, and filled Easter eggs for homeless children at Micah House. They also learned about Fair Trade, cracked open a fresh cacao pod, and read justice-based children's books. This team has already booked a return visit for 2015.*

At United Methodist Ministries, we work to reduce hunger and make communities healthier and more beautiful places to live. We are grateful to our supporters who help make this possible. In 2015 we are excited about the opportunity to expand our work as we strive to realize our vision of a community where no one goes hungry. We are ready to get our hands dirty growing food, doing justice and fighting hunger. Won't you join us?

*Nathan Morgan, Executive Director*



[www.BigMuddyUMC.org](http://www.BigMuddyUMC.org)

