

# The Orono Gardening and Cooking Club

Part of the Maine School Garden Network, the Orono Gardening and Cooking Club (GACC) is an after-school experiential learning program for 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade kids. We celebrate eating local, eating in season, and eating well!

## The Giving Hope Garden



**The Hope House Health & Living Center** offers three distinct services for homeless or peri-homeless adults in the greater Bangor area. The Hope House includes a comprehensive Health Center, emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing units, all under one roof.

The **Giving Hope Garden** is a 14 raised-bed organic garden located behind the Hope House. Shelter and Transitional Housing guests are encouraged to work in the garden (May - Oct.) to help supplement the 1000+ meals that are served each week throughout the year.

The garden has become a bridge between Transitional Housing, Shelter guests and the community. During the growing season we collaborate with local food pantries, shelters and recovery network agencies to share excess produce and invite volunteer support!



Last year, our garden produced **1,400 lbs.** of food that was used in the Hope House Shelter kitchen and shared with local food pantries. This year, we expect to exceed this number by a few hundred pounds! This garden is a Maine Harvest for Hunger project with Penobscot County Cooperative Extension.

For the last 2 years, the Orono Gardening and Cooking Club kids, staff, AmeriCorps members and community volunteers have supported this garden with all the seeds, seedlings, supplies and assistance needed. This year, the Bangor Seniors Center donated an irrigation system to help make it more sustainable for the future!

Throughout the growing season, Master Gardener volunteers provide support and guidance to help garden volunteers from the Hope House and the community learn how to manage their organic garden. Garden coordinators collaborate year-round with like-minded organizations to keep this unique project thriving.



Local organic food enriches the diet for Shelter guests! Fresh salads ingredients like greens, cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, carrots and radish are a great asset and delight.

  
Hope House  
Health & Living Center

