GROW APPALACHIA

BEREA COLLEGE

We have found that many of our community folks grew up tending gardens and enjoying the food that they produced, but as the economy has changed, they find they can no longer afford the equipment to till or maintain a garden, let alone buy seeds and plants. They also find it difficult to get to a store and pay the price for "fresh" produce there. Henderson Settlement has been able to provide low cost seeds and plants through their Greenhouse Operations, yet this was still not enough for many people in our area. By having Grow Appalachia we have created the opportunity to rekindle the fondness and appreciation for having their own garden. Being able to cook, preserve, and share the fruits of their labor will have a positive effect on their lives.

Providing support to our gardeners is our main goal. This past year was a tough year for most of our current gardeners. For some it was battling the weed population in a newly tilled garden. Just after plants were distributed there was an extended period of time without rain. The next challenge was torrential downpours that caused some flooding and erosion. The coup de grâce for a few of our gardeners was livestock, pigs, cows, & donkeys, getting loose and helping themselves to the harvest. Even after all of this our gardeners are already planning for the next year.

We plan to have 35 gardens in 2020, with 20 returning gardeners and 15 new gardeners. We are planning to increase our community garden to be able to produce enough food for our senior food pantry and sell at the Farmer's Market. Applications for 2020 are at the Admin. Office.

With the help of the new Youth Director we are looking into hiring youth to work in the community garden. We are looking forward to working with him to coordinate which youth will benefit most from the program.

Our Grant Proposal for 2020 has been submitted and we are confident that it will be approved.

Please pray for us as we continue to serve our community.







Harvest Festival Booth