

Gardening with Bread for Life

This summer [Bread for Life](#), whose mission it is to provide food, fellowship and a sense of dignity to those in need, provided over 2,000 meals to the people of Southington, with the help of their neighbor - [St. Paul's Episcopal Church](#). In 2014 Bread for Life, a community food program, attempted to buy land next to a school. When their request was denied by the zoning board St. Paul's approached Bread for Life with an offer to sell them some of their property. Bread for Life accepted. St. Paul's then decided to use the remaining land to grow vegetables for Bread for Life. Their first crop was planted this spring, and has flourish throughout the summer with the help of many members of the community.

Through the generosity of many community businesses, individuals and organizations, the garden is now growing. The community donated the plants, organic materials, shed, labor for the irrigation system, fence and composting system. **The St. Paul's Common Good Garden** also received a grant of \$500 from the [Jack Spaeth Caring for Creation Grant](#) and a \$10,000 grant from [United Thanks Offering \(UTO\)](#). St. Paul's provides the organization, and members of the parish volunteer to maintain the garden, but most of the volunteer labor, including the guidance of four master gardeners, comes from outside of the parish membership. St. Paul's found master gardeners in their community by posting a wanted ad in the local paper.

This garden is truly a community effort and would not be possible without community support. In partnership with the community, St. Paul's strives to provide fresh vegetables to those who might not otherwise have access to them, create a garden that is environmentally friendly, and educate those volunteering about the gardening process.

- The Rev. Suzannah Rohman, Rector at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Southington
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