

Karen, what got you interested in starting an EPH garden?

I thought gardens for the families would be a nice way to provide them with some fresh produce and maybe for those who were interested, a chance to grow some on their own. So, when I heard the garden at St. Paul's United Methodist Church wasn't being used anymore, I got the go-head from them to use the garden for EPH. The first garden was planted in May, 2015.

Growing up on a farm, as a family of 13 we had a huge garden, six rows of everything! As kids we had to weed two rows before coming in for supper.

Who are your volunteer gardeners?

There are three gals who have helped on a regular basis. Patti Schuchart (Resurrection Catholic Church) has been helping for three years, and drives in all the way from Oconto. Cheri Shebesta (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton) has been helping for two years, and is also a Unit Coordinator. Michelle Roznowski (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton) often bicycles in to help weed and pick. My sister Janine Brunner also has helped with picking, cleaning, and packing.



Garden Team: left to right
Patti, Karen, Cheri, Michelle

Have you heard anything from the families?

One week we harvested over 66 pounds of cherry tomatoes. The kids loved them! They are like popping candy into your mouth. And kudos to Kim Kennedy and Mary Bollom, The Salvation Army case management team, who have been distributing the produce to the families.

What's the secret to your gardening success?

No secrets. I think the main reason for an increase in poundage this year is that we've had a bumper crop of tomatoes. Also, the green beans did not get mowed down this year by the squirrels and rabbits. Trellising the cucumbers also meant that less were chewed down by the critters. The soil is hard, but we're making progress tilling in fertilizer and peat. Every year it gets a little better!

