

Award #: 91 a 1

Award Name: Garden Therapy

Submitted by: Geneva Garden Club

Number of members in club: 66

Date: 10/31/2021

Please complete each topic, if applicable. Use numbering as below when completing form.

1. New project: Yes No  Beginning date: Completion date: ongoing

2. Brief summary and objectives of project:

Geneva Garden Club (GGC) in conjunction with the Kane County Correctional Department are working with incarcerated women to educate and promote gardening therapy with the inmates. The GGC teaches and works with the women to plant, tend and harvest the vegetable garden in an effort to promote healthy eating, nurturing and pride in their work. The harvest from the garden is donated to a local food pantry, encouraging giving back to the community with the participants.

3. Involvement of club members, other organizations, etc.:

The GGC members are trained by the Correctional Staff in safety measures in dealing with incarcerated individuals to safely interact and guide these individuals in horticultural education. Six club members worked every other week at the jail garden, for 2 – 3 hours each time with the inmates, for 174 hours in total from May through September. At the culmination of the growing season, the garden club members prepared a luncheon for the incarcerated participants and the staff to celebrate the success of their labor.

4. Project expenses and means of funding:

Due to budget constraints as a result of the Covid pandemic and the inability to conduct the GGC annual luncheon fundraiser, several of the members generously donated supplies to this project. The luncheon cost approximately \$400, \$225 was paid for by the GGC from our last luncheon fund raiser held in 2019, the rest was generously funded by the members.

5. Continuing involvement, follow-up, maintenance:

The GGC will continue to be involved with this program, to continue to spread the education and benefit of gardening with a new vulnerable population, as well as involving more members of the club in this endeavor.

6. Attach or insert photos, digital photos, and/or landscape plan (does not need to be professionally drawn).

