

MONTANA FOOD BANK NETWORK PUBLIC POLICY

PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH GRASP PROGRAM



Increasing access to nutritious food for low-income Montanans through local leadership.

“Stand Up. Dig In.” Youth Food Summit and Community Garden



On April 24th, Nourish the Flathead hosted its first **Stand Up. Dig In. Global Youth Service Day**. High school and college students from the Flathead Valley came together to make a positive and powerful change in their community by helping to construction the Nourish-Flathead Valley Community College Community Garden. Nourish the Flathead & FVCC partnered to provide a 1 acre community garden on college campus which includes 30+ individual raised beds, children's garden, culinary department garden space and orchard.

Lincoln County Culinary School



From January to May 2010, GRASP participants in Lincoln County held free monthly classes for the public.

Topics included:

1. Eating Smart and Being Active
2. Fast Meals – Easy, Tasty, and Healthy
3. Vary Your Veggies, Focus on Fruit
4. Grains of Wisdom
5. Staying Strong and Staying Healthy

From January through June 2010, the Montana Food Bank Network awarded \$6,000 in mini grants to support community initiatives to address food security projects in six counties:

Flathead County (Kalispell and Whitefish):

Nourish the Flathead’s “Stand Up. Dig In.” Youth Food Summit and Community Garden

Lincoln County (Libby):

“Lincoln County Culinary School” classes on nutrition, cooking and budgeting

Ravalli County (Victor):

Edible Schoolyard at Victor School and community resource guide

Beaverhead County (Dillon):

Nutrition classes and community resource guide

Gallatin County (Bozeman):

“Farmers Market for All” outreach and education

Park County (Livingston):

Lincoln School Pantry Garden and Farmers Market

Edible Schoolyard at Victor School



Victor School used grant funds to install garden space around their new school building. Teachers adopted plots and incorporated gardening into their class curriculum. Students tended to plots during the school year, and volunteers supervised plots over the summer. Portions of the produce will be used in the school cafeteria.

Lincoln School Pantry Garden and Farmers Market



In Spring 2010, the Livingston Food Pantry built a garden at Lincoln School for use by service organizations and families, in particular food pantry clients. The garden features high beds for wheelchair users and a communal tool shed. In its first season, the garden was fully utilized, and each participant was assigned a master gardener for education and assistance. The next phase of the project is an on-site farmers market to allow gardeners to sell their excess produce to the community.