

# GEORGIA MASTER GARDENER EXTENSION VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

Learn

Serve

Grow



## Spotlight: Home Food Production

Located just outside of the Forsyth County Extension offices, the Learning for Life Garden (<http://fcmg.sharepoint.com/Pages/default.aspx>) serves as an educational space for the community. It was started in 2010 by Master Gardener Extension Volunteers (MGEVs) and has been funded by their annual spring plant sales. MGEVs have been instrumental in installing the garden and maintaining the space as an education and demonstration garden. Visitors can come to the garden year-round and are always able to see something different going on in the garden.

Extension agents use this garden as a place to offer public classes that include hands-on learning. Several methods for growing vegetables can be observed in the fourteen large raised beds, along with various drip irrigation systems and examples of vertical gardening. The garden also demonstrates companion planting, square-foot gardening, crop rotation, and low hoop houses. Produce from the garden is donated to a local boys' shelter and local food banks. By visiting the garden, attending classes, and learning from the signage at each raised bed, visitors gain many ideas and techniques to put to use in their own vegetable gardens.

Because of MGEVs' hard work, the Learning for Life Garden has held true to its name and has become a valuable focal point for the community. It blossomed from a humble tumble of straw bales to the large garden it is today. Visitors leave the garden with new ideas and new excitement for growing their own food at home.

MGEVs have been able to hone their vegetable garden skills through this project and have also been instrumental in creating an area that draws in visitors to not only learn

### Learning for Life Garden Cumming, GA

Served by MGEVs from Forsyth County



### 2015 Project Contributions:

Volunteer Hours: 371  
MGEV Shifts: 80  
Harvest Dates: 20  
Tours: 12

*Special thanks to MGEVs working at the Learning for Life garden!*

more about gardening, and also learn about how Cooperative Extension and MGEVs are a resource to educate the community in horticulture.



The Georgia Master Gardener Extension Volunteer Program prepares volunteers to support UGA Cooperative Extension in delivering gardening information to Georgia's citizens and communities. Since 1979, Master Gardeners and UGA Extension have helped Georgians become healthier, more productive, financially independent and environmentally responsible.