



CHARITIES Committee

Tom Meade, Chairman



The RISAA Charities Committee exists to lend a helping hand to others in need, and is a way of giving back to our community.

THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTION

Charlestown Community Garden

by TOM MEADE



The Charlestown Community Garden, which grows fresh vegetables for food pantries, is this month's recipient of a \$300 gift from RISAA's charity committee.

Volunteer gardeners work throughout the year, planning the garden, nourishing the soil, planting seeds, and tending the plants. From 2012 to last year, the volunteers have produced more than 23,000 pounds of produce. That's 11.5 tons! The harvests included tomatoes, eggplant, greens and other vegetables.



Most of the vegetables, over 15,000 pounds, went to the Jonnycake Center in Westerly which operates a community food banks and thrift shop to help the poor in South County. Other beneficiaries include the WARM Center of Westerly, the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center's food pantry, the Charlestown Senior Center, and other charities.

The garden is in Ninigret Park next to the Charlestown Senior Center.



The garden needs about \$3,000 a year to operate. The budget buys compost, seeds, plants, tools and other supplies. All the labor is donated by volunteers. Some of

them are expert gardeners and others have no gardening experience at all. They're folks who enjoy sharing. Their ages range from 4 to 84.

The garden needs volunteers on Tuesdays and Thursdays mornings from 9 to noon. Volunteers perform basic gardening functions such as planting, weeding and harvesting. No prior gardening experience is required.



To volunteer, contact Steve Symonds at info@ccgri.org. More information about the Charlestown Community Garden is available online at www.ccgri.org.

To donate online, go to the website, or send a check to Charlestown Community Garden, c/o Jonnycake Center, 23 Industrial Drive, Westerly, RI 02891.

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