



COMMUNITY GARDENS

STARTED IN 2014, the UNC SNAP-Ed Community Garden Project partners with leaders in rural communities to support growing produce locally and fostering gardening skills among SNAP eligible participants. The project takes place at 18 community gardens in 6 counties, where gardeners are supported with funding for supplies, a garden manager stipend, marketing materials and technical assistance. In 2016, there were 388 garden participants, who shared 19,130 lbs of garden produce.

All 18 garden managers have reported positive results within their communities as a result of this project.

"The garden here has reinvigorated a sense of community, getting people more interested in participating in the community. It's also rekindled a sense of sharing that has long been absent."

—Chris Faircloth, Coharie Tribe, Clinton, NC

"This garden helps connect people to their community. It stimulates social interaction and encourages self-reliance. It also beautifies our neighborhood."

—Earlean Rivers, Diversity Nurtures Achievement, Warsaw, NC

"It's been remarkable to work alongside these community leaders, and in 3 short years to watch these projects grow from empty lots into catalysts of healthier lifestyles and reinvigorated communities."

—Brett Sheppard, Program Manager, UNC Chapel Hill

LOOKING AHEAD: In 2017 UNC SNAP-Ed will host sustainability workshops for garden managers, to teach on successful models and practices to ensure the long-term viability of the garden, and to broaden its potential impact on the surrounding community.

THROUGH SURVEYS, PARTICIPANTS REPORT:

- ✓ Increases in fruit and vegetable consumption
- ✓ Increased knowledge in gardening skills
- ✓ Enjoyment in engaging with their community and just watching the garden grow
- ✓ A desire to continue year after year

