



THE GARDEN FOR ALL

FIGHTING HUNGER | GROWING COMMUNITY

LEARN MORE



THEGARDENFORALL.ORG



5101 JOHNSTOWN RD. NEW ALBANY, OH 43054

Welcome to The Garden for All!

The Garden for All is a place in the heart of New Albany, Ohio where people come together to *"Fight Hunger & Grow Community"*. We also grow on a three-acre organic farm in Johnstown, Ohio. All produce and flowers we grow go directly to area food pantries and community organizations. The Garden for All supports the following food pantries:

Franklin County: Healthy New Albany Food Pantry, Gahanna Residents In Need (GRIN), Motherful (Gahanna), and Broad Street Food Pantry (Columbus)

Licking County: Market Street Food Pantry (Newark), Faith Care Food Pantry (Johnstown), and Northridge Food Pantry (Johnstown)

Why do we do this work? According to the 2022 Census, nearly 38 million Americans lived in poverty that year. Hunger isn't selective. It can affect people from all walks of life, especially when you factor in things like unexpected recessions and pandemics. In fact, millions of Americans live so close to economic disaster they are only one job loss, a missed paycheck, or a medical emergency away from hunger or homelessness.

The problem doesn't lie in occasional hunger but pervasive hunger, along with the lack of basic nutrition, which can have dire consequences on a population. Hunger can affect our economy by decreasing productivity due to difficulty concentrating, low energy, or missing work due to illness. It increases our national healthcare costs and even lowers lifespans. Hunger impacts children and their ability to learn and attend school.

In Ohio alone, 1,391,290 people face hunger on an almost daily basis. Almost 400,000 of those are children, which can cause long-term health risks. These numbers make Ohio one of the states with the highest rates of food insecurity in the country.

Locally, the Ohio Association of Community Action Agencies reported that Columbus has the state's greatest concentration of suburban poor and that 12% of suburban Columbus residents live in poverty.

Your support is critical to our mission. Your support helps us grow healthy, fresh produce and cut flowers for area food pantries to support those in need. We could not do it without you!

Because we are providing fresh produce for others, safety is of the utmost importance. This orientation document provides important steps all volunteers must take to fulfill our mission and provide the safest produce possible.

PREPARING TO VOLUNTEER

THE GARDEN FOR ALL VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE: MAY - OCTOBER

NEW ALBANY: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday | 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

JOHNSTOWN: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday | 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

One Saturday a month | 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM

No volunteer sessions on federal holidays

What to wear. Closed-toed shoes and clothes you don't mind getting dirty.

What to bring. Sunscreen, a hat, gardening gloves, and water in a reusable water bottle.

Inclement weather. Heavy rain and lightning will always cancel a volunteer session. Light rain is fine as the vegetables still need to be harvested and provided to food pantries. We will notify you in advance if a volunteer session is canceled.

Parking (at New Albany). Park near the All Saints Episcopal Church building (white building on the right side of the driveway).

Parking (at Johnstown). The grass is wet during the spring. Carpool if possible and park on the left side along the gravel driveway.

Welcome. The Garden Leader will meet you when you arrive and will provide details on activities for the session.

Please note: *Any youth who is not yet in high school must be accompanied by an adult. All youth under 18 must have a guardian sign their waiver.*

Have Fun!



LOGISTICS AT THE GARDEN IN NEW ALBANY

The Garden for All is located at 5101 Johnstown Road in New Albany, Ohio and we grow on the grounds of All Saints Episcopal Church.



If you bring drinks or food that requires refrigeration, please let us know and we can place it in the refrigerator.

A **restroom** is located inside the All Saints church building (down the hall and to the left). The restrooms and a **drinking fountain** are accessible during volunteer sessions. If your shoes are muddy from garden work please remove them at the entrance before entering the church building.

LOGISTICS AT THE FARM IN JOHNSTOWN

The Garden for All Farm is located at 5580 Johnstown Alexandria Road in Johnstown, Ohio. Look for The Garden for All sign at the entrance.



Please stay inside the deer fencing that surrounds The Garden property. The fence is not on during working hours.

If you bring drinks or food that requires refrigeration, please bring a cooler to keep them cool during your volunteer session.

There is a **portable restroom** and hand wash station located at the side of the storage barn.

VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES & LEADERS

Volunteer activities at The Garden for All may include both outdoor and indoor jobs. The volunteer jobs include a wide range of gardening activities to support our vegetable and cut flower production as well as harvesting, packaging, and making fresh flower bouquets.

A Garden Leader will direct the volunteer session activities and provide volunteers with instructions on the day's planned activities. Garden activities may include:

- Preparing the planting area
- Planting
- Seed starting
- Tending to the gardens
- Harvesting produce and flowers

A Harvest & Packaging Leader will direct volunteers on the process we follow to package the fresh produce. Tasks include:

- Washing produce (if needed and only if dirty)
- Weighing and packing produce by variety
- Recording weight on produce sheet by variety
- Preparing for produce delivery to the designated food pantry

Making Flower Bouquets. Tasks include:

- Cutting flowers
- Arranging and wrapping flower bouquets
- Recording the number of flower bouquets
- Preparing flower bouquets for delivery to the designated food pantry

A Delivery Volunteer will deliver produce and flower bouquets to the designated food pantry based on our delivery schedule and following the delivery instruction sheet.

Community Engagement Ambassadors support The Garden for All at various events throughout the season.

FOOD & VOLUNTEER SAFETY

Food safety is a priority so please review the below points:

1. **If you are ill, please come back another day to visit us.** If you are sick, have a fever, sore throat, a temperature, or have vomited within the last 48 hours, please come back another time.
2. **If you get injured, tell a leader immediately.** Please let your leader know if any blood or bodily fluid has come in contact with any surfaces or fresh produce, so we can clean the area and properly dispose of the contaminated produce.
 - **At The Garden in New Albany,** the **First Aid Kit** is located in the Garden Room (on the shelf by the light switch), or ask a volunteer leader.
 - **At The Farm in Johnstown,** **First Aid Kits** are located in the wash/pack building and in the storage barn, or ask a volunteer leader.
3. Smoking or vaping is **not allowed anywhere near the building and gardens.**
4. To support food safety we ask volunteers to **wash hands:**
 - Before volunteering
 - Before handling produce
 - Before weighing and packaging produce
 - After lunch or a break
 - After using the restroom
 - After handling contaminated produce

At The Garden in New Albany, you can wash your hands in the restroom inside the All Saints Church building and outside, at the entrance to the main garden.

At The Farm in Johnstown, you can wash your hands outside the wash/pack building (driveway side), to the right of the portable restroom at the side of the storage barn, and near High Tunnel A.

FOOD & VOLUNTEER SAFETY

SURFACE & TOOL CLEANING

To support food safety, please sanitize the food packaging area before and after use. This includes tables, the scale, harvesting tools, packing crates, and harvest buckets.

Procedure

1. The surface should be brushed or rinsed to remove visible dirt and debris.
2. Use the food-safe sanitizer for the tables, scale, and any tables we use to package produce labeled in the kitchen. The sanitizer bottle is labeled "Food Safe Sanitizer" and has a pink liquid in the bottle.
3. Apply the cleaning solution and scrub the surfaces moving in the direction top to bottom for food prep areas.
4. Rinse the surface with clean water until all soap suds are rinsed away moving in the direction of top to bottom.
5. Wipe dry the surface with a clean paper towel or let the surface dry.

GARDEN TOOLS & EQUIPMENT

All work in the garden is done with hand tools and we ask you to keep safety in mind.

Harvest knives are sharp and will cut, please use them with caution.

- Only use your knife or garden tool for its intended purpose.
- Please use garden gloves when using the knife.
- If the knife is dull or broken, please give it to a leader and do not use it.
- Carry knives with the sharp side down.
- Be aware of your surroundings and others around you; make sure others near you are aware you are using the knife.
- Always cut away from yourself and watch your fingers.
- Never try to catch a knife if it falls.
- Put knives away in their proper places when done using them.

AT THE END OF YOUR VOLUNTEER SESSION

Once the work has been completed please help us clean up.

- Sanitize and wipe down the indoor produce packing tables and scale.
- Sweep the floors to remove debris.
- Outside help us return tools to storage and tidy up the area as needed.
- Wash the harvest containers and harvest knives with liquid soap and water.
- Move harvest containers to the storage area. Leave to air dry.

If you have any questions prior to your visit, please email us at volunteer@thegardenforall.org

We encourage you to take photos of your volunteer session! Please share your event photos on social media and tag @thegardenforall



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