



## The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation Welcomes Spring by Announcing Gro More Good Grassroots Grantees with KidsGardening

March 20, 2019

**175 garden programs to receive funding, 62,500 children to benefit from increased experiences with gardening and outdoor play**

MARYSVILLE, Ohio, March 20, 2019 (GLOBE NEWSWIRE) -- To mark the first day of spring and celebrate the start of the gardening season, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation today announced the recipients of the 2019 *Gro More Good* Grassroots Grants with KidsGardening. 175 school and nonprofit organizations across the United States were awarded funding to create or enhance their youth garden programs. More than 62,500 children will benefit from increased experiences with gardening and outdoor play.

The Grassroots Grants are part of ScottsMiracle-Gro's larger *Gro More Good* initiative, which aims to bring the life-enhancing benefits of gardens and greenspaces to 10 million children over the next five years. As part of *Gro More Good*, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation is partnering with leading not-for-profit organizations, such as KidsGardening, to help overcome some of the pressing challenges facing today's youth—including childhood obesity, poor nutrition and nature deficit—by improving children's access to fresh food and increasing their time spent outdoors connected to nature.

"Our work to connect more children to gardening comes at a critical time," said Jim King, president of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation. "Kids today spend less time outside than any other generation, and it's negatively impacting their social, emotional and physical health. It's our responsibility to help reconnect children with gardening and meaningful outdoor experiences, which is why we so proudly support our Grassroots Grantees who are doing just that."

The 2019 *Gro More Good* Grassroots Grants supported all types of community-driven garden and greenspace projects that directly engage youth. From school food pantries to youth homeless shelters, after-school programs to therapeutic day care programs, this year's *Gro More Good* Grassroots Grantees are making a positive impact in the lives of the children they serve. Some highlights from this year's list of grantees include:

- **Northland Family Help Center's Youth Shelter Garden in Flagstaff, Arizona:** Garden serves homeless youth ages 4–17 who reside at the shelter, allowing them to pick and snack on fresh fruits and vegetables while also benefiting from the therapeutic nature of gardening. Funds will be used to expand the garden program and purchase more hardy perennial and self-renewing annual plants.
- **Via Rehabilitation Services, Inc. in Santa Clara, California:** Via provides weekend respite programs and longer summer camps to children and teens with developmental, physical and intellectual disabilities. Their Growing My Plate program combines horticultural lessons with independent living and culinary skills in their year-round accessible garden and greenhouse.
- **Our Daily Bread of TN, Inc. in Knoxville, Tennessee:** Serving low-income families with children enrolled in child care facilities, Our Daily Bread's Taking Root Tennessee initiative aims to influence positive food choices in children by bringing gardening opportunities to childcare settings. They supply childcare providers with raised garden beds, seeds and training materials to create successful garden programs.
- **Jack Lowe Sr. Elementary in Dallas, Texas:** An urban public school, Jack Lowe Sr. Elementary will expand their existing native plants and pollinator garden with a new educational vegetable garden inside the school premises. The garden will provide practical experiences for students in biology, ecology, mathematics, health, history and language arts. Harvested produce will be sent home with students, all of whom qualify for free school meals.

"The work of this year's *Gro More Good* Grassroots Grantees is incredible," said Helen Rortvedt, executive director of KidsGardening. "KidsGardening is honored to help provide the resources these organizations need to expand their garden programming and positively influence the lives of more children. We look forward to working with these organizations this coming year."

A full list of the 2019 *Gro More Good* Grassroots Grantees, along with more program information, is available at <https://kidsgardening.org/2019-gromore-grassroots-grant/>. For more information on The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation's *Gro More Good* initiative, visit [www.GroMoreGood.org](http://www.GroMoreGood.org).

### About The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation

The mission of The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation is to inspire, connect and cultivate a community of purpose. The Foundation is deeply rooted in helping create healthier communities, empower the next generation, and preserve our planet. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization that funds non-profit entities that support its core initiatives in the form of grants, endowments and multi-year capital gifts. For more information, visit [www.scottsmiraclegrofoundation.org](http://www.scottsmiraclegrofoundation.org).

### About KidsGardening

Our mission is to ensure all kids have access to a garden in which to play, learn and grow, engaging their natural curiosity and wonder. We inspire, support and connect educators and families by providing garden grants, lessons and curriculum, and by cultivating a community of practice. For more information, visit [www.kidsgardening.org](http://www.kidsgardening.org)

Contact:

Lindsay LaSala

The Scotts Miracle-Gro Foundation

937-644-7621 (office)  
937-516-2732 (mobile)  
[Lindsay.LaSala@Scotts.com](mailto:Lindsay.LaSala@Scotts.com)



Scotts Miracle-Gro Company