Community Gardens Primary Care Project
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Why?
- Improve nutrition
- Reduce violence
- Reduce sentences
- Improve mental health
- Building a positive community
- Teach useful horticulture skills
- Financial savings for correctional facility
- Donation to food pantries
- 29 community gardens on correctional facilities in WI

May, 2012
30 feet x 60 feet lot
2 weeks
2 dozen volunteers
2 raised beds
A shaded gathering place

Madison Community Corrections before:

Who?
- Most from Huber Center, William H. Ferris Center
- Minimum security centers
- Work release privileges
- Common offenses: drugs, skipping probation, DUI, child support, etc.

Volunteer Reflections
“Working in the garden gives me hope and something positive to look forward to while living somewhere with so much violence and negativity. I feel part of a community.”

“I plan to have my own plot of land to grow and sell food after I finish my term.”

“Your presentations helped us connect what we’ve learned about gardening and food to our overall health and well-being”

“I plan to pay more attention to my food, exercise, and health.”

Challenge & Reflection
- Group focus
- Eliciting ideas
- Explaining diseases & prevention to public
- Positive interaction with offenders
- Opportunity to learn about different lifestyles
- Gardening is therapeutic & enjoyable
- Plan to have my own garden

Presentations

How to stay healthy?

Common Skin Diseases
- Staph Skin Infection
- Sporotrichosis
- Cold Sores

Men’s Health Maintenance
- Smoking, Alcohol, Drugs
- Adult vaccinations
- Safe sexual practice, STD screening
- Hypertension, cholesterol screening
- Diabetes screening
- Nutrition
- Exercise

Challenges & Reflections

How?

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After: