



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Corrections

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LETTER OF RECOGNITION

RE: Growing Gardens & Oregon Adults in Custody

To whom it may concern,

It is with great honor I contribute the following recognition on behalf of Growing Gardens, formerly known as Lettuce Grow Garden Foundation, (LGGF) an Oregon based non-profit agency.

I've had the good fortune of working with, Growing Gardens/LGGF since 2009. During that time a phenomenal partnership has been developed, which also includes Oregon State University (OSU) and the Oregon Food Bank. Growing Gardens working collectively with OSU, has developed a sustainable garden program for the Oregon Department Corrections (ODOC), Adults in Custody (AIC). The sustainable gardening program provides the AIC a great opportunity to advance their educations and skills in the area of horticulture. When completed, the AIC is awarded an OSU Extension Service, Certificate of Home Horticulture. With that certificate, the AIC can attain Master Gardener certification once they are discharged from ODOC custody and perform the necessary volunteer time required for Master Gardener certification. Since 2009, ODOC has been expanding their gardens all over the state to help provide opportunity for more of the AIC to pursue the sustainable gardening program while also providing fresh produce for the AIC. The gardens have produced literally thousands of pounds of fresh nutritional produce of which, a good percentage has been donated to state food banks to help feed the states hungry. To date, 498 AIC have successfully completed the program and received the Certificate of Home Horticulture. Because of Growing Gardens continued commitment and support, this program has become a huge success and a model for future programs. In 2016 we anticipate having well over 200 hundred AIC enrolled in this program all across the state. Without Growing Gardens administering this program it would likely never have succeeded. At this time, Growing Gardens has also incorporated a greenhouse management course, which we are all very excited about.

Sincerely,

Paul R Stanley

ODOC/Construction Project Manager