

UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI  
**M** Extension  
JACKSON  
COUNTY

# In your community

October  
2005



## Helping Others *GROW*



In the last four years over 4,000 lbs. of vegetables and fruits donated to Harvesters



Last year 230 Master Gardeners volunteered 11,681 hours

### ASK A MASTER GARDENER

Ever wonder how to get rid of grubs in your lawn or how to winterize your rose bushes? Give the Master Gardener Hotline a call and a trained Master Gardener volunteer will answer your lawn or garden questions. The Master Gardener Program, sponsored by the University of Missouri Extension, is a public service program that provides 45 hours of research-based training to volunteers for the purpose of enabling them to serve their communities through horticulture. Master Gardeners also grow personally through expansion of their communication, management and leadership skills. Today over **230 Master Gardeners** are at work in the Greater Kansas

City Missouri area under the guidance of Horticulture Specialist, Lala Kumar. They **volunteer over 11,600 hours** of public service and help more than **12,000 citizens** each year.

Many Master Gardener volunteers **answer consumer horticulture questions** on the Master Gardener Hotline. They **educate the public** about the threat that fertilizers and pesticides can pose to water quality or the environment if used improperly. They **teach children** through gardening classes that emphasize environmental stewardship. They **enhance communities** through their numerous demonstration gardens and **donate produce** to local food banks. The Master Gardeners of Greater KC also provide **enabling gardens** for the disabled and senior citizens. They **distribute research-based information** at displays and events and **give gardening talks** through a Speaker's Bureau.



1501 NW Jefferson, Blue Springs, MO 64015

**816.252.5051**

2700 E. 18th St., Suite 240, Kansas City, MO 64127

**816.482.5850**

For more information, please contact  
Jackson County Program Director Cindy Zluticky  
816.252.5051, [zlutickyc@missouri.edu](mailto:zlutickyc@missouri.edu)

E-MAIL: [JACKSONBLSP@MISSOURI.EDU](mailto:JACKSONBLSP@MISSOURI.EDU)

VISIT OUR WEB SITE:  
[EXTENSION.MISSOURI.EDU](http://EXTENSION.MISSOURI.EDU)

# In your community



## MASTER GARDENERS CREATE AN ACCESSIBLE GARDEN FOR ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES

The property surrounding the ICAN facility in Independence underwent some dramatic changes this year due to the leadership and volunteer efforts of the Master Gardeners. Over the last four years the Master Gardeners' Universal Garden Committee lead by Rose Patterson has worked to establish an accessible garden at ICAN. Individualized Creative Alternative Network (ICAN) was created in the early 1990's to offer opportunities and educational experiences to adults with developmental disabilities. The Master Gardeners worked with ICAN to create a project that enabled each person at ICAN to participate, by affording access through the use of raised beds, making container gardens, butterfly gardens, a fruit orchard, vine garden and the relaxing water garden. According to Rocky Caudell, ICAN executive director, "This project is opening a lot of things for us. The whole project is just great, and the people we serve are very very enthusiastic about it all." The expanded gardens were made possible by many community donations including the water garden materials from the Kansas City Water Garden Society. Future plans for the site include a greenhouse that will be wheel-chair accessible.

## MASTER GARDENER OF GREATER KC STATISTICS

- ⊗ Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City have 230 active Master Gardeners that volunteered 11,681 hours in 2004. If salaried this would equal \$205,000 based on \$17.55 per hour as set by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
- ⊗ The Master Gardeners of Greater Kansas City had contact with more than 12,000 citizens last year.
- ⊗ The Master Gardener Hotline solved the gardening problems of 2200 call-ins, working March through October, 9-3 p.m. five days a week.
- ⊗ The Speakers Bureau gave more than 50 talks reaching about 600 people.
- ⊗ The Master Gardeners participated in three major Flower, Lawn and Garden Shows, making contact with at least 5000 people. An additional 2000 contacts were made through local gardening activities such as "plant doctor" booths in shopping malls, city markets and special events.
- ⊗ In the past four years, through "Plant a Row for the Hungry," the Master Gardeners have donated more than 4,000 pounds of vegetables and fruits to the local Harvesters.

an equal opportunity/ADA institution



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