

# THE PILOT GARDEN CAIRO'S FOOD DONATION GARDEN

UNIVERSITY OF  
ILLINOIS EXTENSION

2022  
REPORT

## Our Story

After a successful kickstart to our garden in 2021, we set new goals for The Pilot Garden for 2022. We planned for three seasons of growth, more volunteer support, and a larger crop. With the help of our community, we achieved these goals and continued to combat food insecurity in Cairo.

We started in the spring, planting cool weather crops like radishes, broccoli, and lettuce. We continued into summer by planting tomatoes, bell peppers, cucumbers, and new this year, watermelon and cantaloupe. We were excited to add fruit into the garden. In the fall we planted turnip greens and continued harvesting our summer vegetables.

We continued to receive support from our partners, Daystar and Southern 7 Health Department, and sponsors, with funding to cover the cost of water, donations of mulch, pallets, plants, buckets, a new picnic table, and stump seats. Volunteers gave 390 hours of time, resulting in 1250 pounds of produce grown and donated to Daystar Community Programs.

Nutrition education was provided at both the garden and pantry sites to compliment the harvested produce. Signage, recipes, recipe demos, storage improvements, and other nutrition education materials were shared.

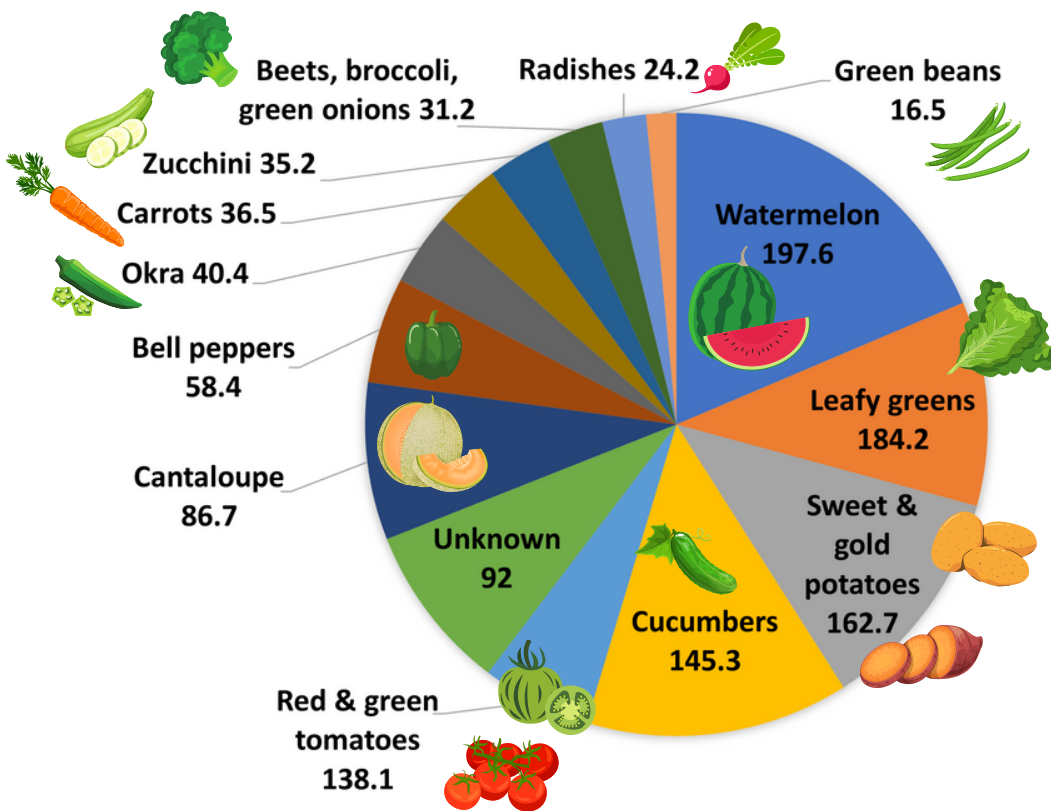


**1250 pounds of produce grown!**



**Illinois Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

## What Did We Grow?



## A Note from Daystar

"The Pilot Garden has been a wonderful blessing to Daystar and those in the community to whom we serve. It has been a bountiful summer full of fresh deliciousness!"

Daystar wants to thank each and every one of you who has donated their time and talents to make this project such a success. It is amazing to see the positive things we can achieve when we all work together. This labor of love has brought fresh fruits and vegetables to many in our area who have so few resources. Thanks to all and we look forward to spring and summer of 2023!"

## Cairo Elementary Garden Tales

We began a monthly garden program for students at Cairo Elementary called Garden Tales. Each month, we invite each class of students to come to the garden, where they learn about a different nature-themed topic, listen to a story, and then complete a craft or help work in the garden. We reach 90-140 students each month.



This year students helped us plant seeds and strawberries in the spring. They also helped us harvest radishes, turnips, and sweet potatoes.



# Our Volunteers

We are grateful to our dedicated volunteers who gave of their time to plant and tend the garden!

## Special thanks to:

Deb Davis

Anne Terry, Bishop Derek Eurales, Retha Eurales, Kanessa Eurales, Patrona Davis (Mounds Lions Club)  
Joan Floyd, Alsandra Lewis, Iwanda DeBerry (Delta Sigma Theta Sorority)  
Sarita Sawyer, Tyrone Coleman, Florence Heady, Craig Ballard (NAACP)  
Demeisha Carlton, Fern Edwards, Willie Long, Janice Russell, Marian Smith  
Loyola Academy, Pulaski County Patriots 4-H Club

**390 hours of volunteer time recorded, valued at \$11,695**



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