Who we are

- A grassroots project working to relieve hunger in the west suburbs of Chicago by providing families in need with raised-bed vegetable gardens and growing instruction.
What we do

- Residential gardens: we teach organic home vegetable gardening in a way that promotes self-sufficiency, pride, and good stewardship of the Earth.

- Our community gardens provide fresh, organic produce to families who are not able to care for a home vegetable garden.
“Over 95,000 people in DuPage County go to bed hungry every night. Of those, over 45,000 are children.”

- West Suburban Community Pantry
2012

- 4 families (13 children)
- Clients of GE Food Pantry
- Wanted to grow food.
Families receive:

- Hand-built 4x8’ cedar raised bed
- Soil and compost
- Plants and seeds
- Gloves, tools, book
- Gardening instruction on build day and ongoing via Garden Coach
- Support for two years
Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day.

Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.
2013

- 14 families
- Glen Ellyn, Wheaton, Glendale Heights, Bloomingdale, West Chicago, Westmont, Naperville
- 900 square feet of gardens at Village Green Park in Glen Ellyn
2013

- 63 people live at residences with a GardenWorks garden, 31 are children
- 8 at single family homes, 2 balconies
- 27 volunteers
- Range from professional landscapers and Master Gardeners to new gardeners – all with strong dedication to the cause.
2013 Partners

- Glen Ellyn Food Pantry, Bridge Communities, People’s Resource Center
- Help us identify families
- Eliminates need for qualification procedures
Funding sources

- Individual donations
- Corporate funding for 2014
- T-shirt
- Coloring book
The Future of GardenWorks

- 501c3 non-profit status
- A team of staff and volunteers dedicated to the cause of hunger elimination
- Expansion to all areas of DuPage County and the Northern Fox Valley region
- Gardens for anyone who needs one
Community Garden
Community Garden

- Growing tomatoes, peppers, beans, squash, cabbage
- Plants donated by Sweet Home Organics and individual growers
- Planted by Daisy Girl Scouts
- Maintained by volunteers who adopt the garden weekly
- All produce donated to Glen Ellyn Food Pantry
Community Garden

Challenges

- Tilling creates compaction, poor soil structure and abundant weeds
- Watering can be difficult in dry spells

Recommendation – offer perennial arrangements with gardeners, make watering easier