



# School Gardens Program: Bucks County Youth Center

## Contact Information

Contact Person: Jacqueline Froehlich

Contact Person's Title: Deputy Director of Operations

Email: [jfroehlich@co.bucks.pa.us](mailto:jfroehlich@co.bucks.pa.us)

Contact Person's Phone Number: (215) 340-8302 | FAX: (215) 340-8355

## Objectives

- ▣ To use our school's gardens as a therapeutic tool.
- ▣ To develop rapport with the residents.
- ▣ To teach skills that will help residents transition into society.
- ▣ To teach nutrition to the residents and aid them in selecting healthful foods.
- ▣ To instill confidence and pride in the residents.

## Category

- ▣ Health Education

## Description

- ▣ This year we hope to start our plants indoors and then transfer them to our outside gardens. Residents who are not allowed outside of the facility will be able to care for the plants during the inside phase. Then other residents will move the seedlings to the outside gardens. We are also going to add herbs to our dining room planters so we can utilize them year-round.
- ▣ Our outside gardens presently consist of a variety of herbs and vegetables. Our food service staff freeze-dries the herbs and vegetables for year-round enjoyment. We will enlarge our gardens this year to allow for an increase in vegetables. We will add a pumpkin and gourd patch, along with watermelons, honeydews and cantaloupes. We also hope to start some fruit trees, and, if there is enough time, we may add a corn field.
- ▣ If we can secure the necessary resources and funds for a hot house, we also plan to grow crops year-round.

## Advice

- ▣ The program has been rewarding to both residents and staff, but it takes a lot of resources and volunteers to continue the success.

## Evidence of Success

- ▣ Improvements in residents' behavior, life skills, and self-esteem.
- ▣ Decreased food costs during summer months
- ▣ Improved food quality
- ▣ Improved variety of foods

