

global gardens newsletter



Fall 2008

What is Global Gardens?

Global Gardens, a nonprofit educational organization, is dedicated to empowering low-income students and communities through the process of creating community gardens. Committed to the values of inquiry-based and peace education, Global Gardens provides a holistic, hands-on approach to science and multi-disciplinary learning. Establishing progressive student-centered garden spaces empowers individuals to live healthier lives and become agents of change in their communities.



As the weather changes and our gardens for the most part are preparing to go dormant for the winter, we always get asked "what do you do in the winter?"

The simple answer is that we keep doing what we are passionate about - investing in the lives of the students and communities we work with. While the garden is such a significant part of what we do the garden exists as a representation of what Global Gardens hopes to cultivate in our students. That is empowerment, responsibility, community and curiosity for learning. In the winter we continue to observe and talk about what is happening in our gardens, but shift our focus toward experiments, art and cultural activities that bring another dimension of learning to the program and engage students in different ways. As you will read in this issue of the newsletter, this winter we will also be working on another big project - moving into our new space!! The students at Eugene Field have been involved in

this project and will continue to play an important role as we make the transition. Thank you to everyone who has been a part of all that has happened this year. We are looking forward to what 2009 has in store for Global Gardens.

A message from the board...

"As the fall season sets in we think of putting the garden to rest, harvesting the last of the fall vegetables and dreaming of the new spring garden. Gardens take a rest but not the Global Garden



teachers. They just keep on planting seeds of learning for their students no matter what the chill factor outside. What a wonderful, joy filled job they do. With the

season of thankfulness approaching the board would like to thank the Global Gardens teachers for their beautiful hearts and minds for making a difference. They are the best fertilizer the kids could ever have."

- Richard Day, Global Gardens Board Co-Chair

news and happenings...
check the web site for frequent updates.

www.global-gardens.org



Thank you Junior League for helping us at the Cherry Street Farmers' Market!!

Global Gardens Market Days



The Global Gardeners at Rosa Parks teamed up with the Junior League of Tulsa volunteers to try out their entrepreneurial spirit at the Cherry Street Farmers' Market. The students had a booth during two market days; selling herbs, flowers, t-shirts and postcards. It was a wonderful experience for both the students and volunteers who are looking forward to more market days during the 2009 season! To read the coverage, check out the news and events tab on the web site.

The Local Table Dinner



The Local Table held the second annual Global Gardens benefit in October. A huge thanks to Tuck & Kate Curren, owners of the Local Table for their support. The dinner was delicious and the company was great. Several of the Global Gardeners had the opportunity to share their experiences and express how Global Gardens is making a difference in their lives. Thank you to everyone who came to the dinner and especially to the new friends we made!



What's the buzz about a building?

We are excited to announce the good news that Global Gardens will soon have a permanent home. The space is being

provided by The Harvest, a non-profit that is involved in several projects benefiting the Eugene Field Community. Buildings that sit directly east of the garden at Eugene Field will include two classrooms and a Global Gardens office. We are confident this

will help us better serve our students and alleviate some of the current challenges. One classroom will be used for the elementary program. The second classroom will be used for the middle school program and double as an art studio. The building will also include a teaching kitchen and grocery store that is a joint effort between Global Gardens and The Harvest. We are excited to be a part of this endeavor and the impact it will have as the community takes ownership of the project. We anticipate the building being open in mid January. Look for updates on how you can help as we plan for the move.

Harvesting Rainwater



In August, Global Gardens at Eugene Field held a community day to celebrate being chosen by Organic Gardening magazine to receive a 1000 gallon water cistern through the WaterWorks Program. The cistern collects rainwater through the guttering system and stores it so the Global Gardeners can fill up watering cans directly from the cistern to water the garden. The award also provided other garden materials, including a shed, plants and various garden tools. We had a great time with everyone who came to join us in the garden that day. Thank you to everyone who attended. Thank you Organic Gardening Magazine!

Rosa Parks is Growing



On September 19, the Global Garden at Rosa Parks was enhanced thanks to the help of QuikTrip, which chose the school as their Day of Caring site. The volunteers stayed all day to build an outdoor classroom area, bird houses, 14 raised beds, a picket fence and arbor. With the addition of the raised beds began Global Gardens in-class programming at Rosa Parks. Currently 18 classes, Pre-K through fifth grade, are involved in their own class gardens weekly, with Global Gardens educator Sescily Emerson - the newest addition to the Global Gardens staff team. Come see the new improvements!

Middle School Program



Last year as the Eugene Field fifth graders were preparing to graduate it was apparent that neither the students or our staff were content with that being the end of the program for these students who were the founding members of Global Gardens. Thus, the middle school program was formed! We took 13 students on a campout in October to brainstorm what a middle school program would involve. Now, three days a week committed sixth graders come together at Eugene Field from their perspective middle schools to be a part of the program. We are gardening while focusing on the local and global community.

"We have Global Gardens to help unite people. It gives the word 'community' more meaning." - Tiger, Rosa Parks 5th grade

What is Global Gardens middle school program? by Brenda, sixth grade.

“Global Gardens middle school is a program for younger students from the community to join together and learn about the environment, gardens, nature and society, and what we could do to make our world a better place to live in. So we all gather around and have fun. We have a lot of goals to reach. Thanks to a couple of sponsors we have had some of our dreams come true but we still have got more dreams to reach. What we also do is try to bring peace and tranquility to our minds and our community. I joined Global Gardens last year but I feel like I have been in it forever.”

Give the gift of education

This holiday season invest in something different.



This year as you think about those on your holiday list, consider giving the gift of a donation to Global Gardens. You can give the gift in the name of someone or as a new family tradition. A gift of \$250 will provide for the total cost of an entire year of Global Gardens for one student.

If you are interested in giving a donation in any amount as a gift this season contact Ayschia Saiymeh, gardenayschia@gmail.com or 405.226.4021. You will receive a holiday card recognizing your gift to give to the recipient or keep as a memento. General tax deductible

donations can also be made to Global Gardens through the Tulsa Community Foundation: 7030 S Yale Ave # 600 Tulsa, OK 74136.

Upcoming events

Nov. 22, 10am-12pm - Rosa Parks Community Day. Join us to plant trees and hang hope flags.

Nov. 23, 1pm-3pm - Eugene Field Community Day. A harvest party in the garden.

January 2009, TBA - Global Gardens new building grand opening.

Global Gardens fast facts

Students Served:	1,100	Current partner schools:	2
Cost per student/yr:	\$250	% of students in poverty:	93
Instruction hrs./week:	63	Grades served:	Pre-K - 6th

