

global gardens newsletter



June 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.

When Global Gardens began over a year ago I never expected it to grow as fast and vibrantly as it has. This time last year I was working by myself as a volunteer and now we have an active board, a staff of five, an intern and several committed volunteers.

As Tayla, a Eugene Field fourth grader, explained in a speech “We started out with about 15 kids and we grew by having 302 students and that’s not counting the families! It’s sort of like our garden is a seed and you plant it in the ground and about a year later it is a huge tree, so it’s like a family tree!”

With a great response to what was happening at Eugene Field with both the after school students and the classroom program it was evident that it was time to expand. In February Global Gardens began its second site at Union’s Rosa Parks elementary. With a year of experience behind us the program at Rosa Parks has taken off beautifully.

The garden is still in the beginning stages but the impact on the students and the community is already in full bloom. Exchanges are happening between Eugene Field and Rosa Parks as students are engaging in teaching one another. Parents are coming to the school to work alongside their children in the garden and the Global Gardeners are gaining confidence both as public speakers and ambassadors as they have the opportunity to present

Global Gardens at various community events.

Our commitment to the individual students is at the heart of what we do. It’s why our program is effective. In staying true to this commitment and an eagerness to expand the learning opportunities, Global Gardens will expand again in the fall with a middle school program to serve the Eugene Field Global Gardeners as they transition to sixth grade. With a similar structure, the program will use the garden to do in-depth cultural studies, explore sustainability and human rights issues. It’s an exciting way to stay connected with our students and continue to invest in them as they encounter new experiences.

As we continue to grow and set roots in the community your support will be an integral part of the process. We hope you will find a way to be involved. Stay connected with us through our Web site and blog. And as always we would love to have you join us in the garden anytime.



Happy summer!

-Heather Oakley, founder & director

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

www.global-gardens.org

Waterworks Grant



Global Gardens was chosen by Organic Gardening magazine to be a recipient of the WaterWorks Program. The purpose of the grant is to enhance community gardens through water harvesting. The grant will provide a 1000 gallon water cistern that will be used to harvest rainwater and then used to water the Global Garden at Eugene Field.

As a recipient we also had a garden beautification wish list granted. We were able to purchase a new shed for the garden, an outdoor classroom/shade structure and various garden tools and plants. We'll be dedicating the cistern in August - stay tuned for details on the event!

Get your t-shirts



Stay cool this summer in a Global Gardens t-shirt designed by the students in the Rosa Parks after school program. The front displays the Global Gardens logo. The back says "We are family, let's sow seeds of peace" and features a comic-like drawing of a seed being planted and then becoming a mature tree.

To purchase t-shirts contact Ayschia, gardenayschia@gmail.com or 405.226.4021. Shirts are \$15 and are currently available in all sizes, youth small - adult XXL. T-shirts are only available in green.

Summer Program



The lazy days of summer keep us busy in the garden! If you would like to join us to see our program in action or act as a volunteer this summer we would love to have you. If you are interested in visiting this summer at either sites please contact Ayschia, gardenayschia@gmail.com or 405.226.4021.

Rosa Parks Summer Program

6/2 - 6/27, 12:30pm - 3:30pm

7/7 - 7/31, 8am - 12pm

Community Day, 7/16, 10am-12pm

Eugene Field Summer Program

6/23 - 7/25, 8am - 12pm

Community Day, 7/26 10am-12pm

earth day events



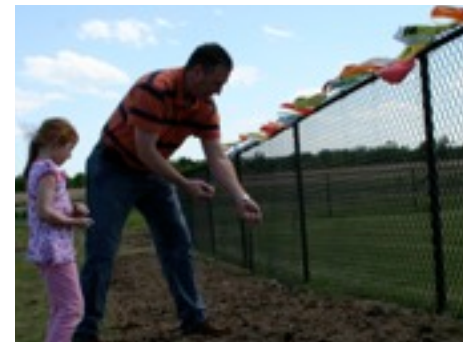
In honor of Earth Day and Global Gardens' commitment to greening our world we celebrated all throughout the month of April! We participated in Refresh Tulsa, Whole Foods Grillin' for a Cause, Earth Fest at the Tulsa Zoo, the downtown Enviroexpo and Festival Earth. It was great to be out in the community seeing our supporters and garnering new ones! Thank you to everyone who came out to see us and meet some of students. Our students are not only learning about recycling, composting and growing food locally - they are actively doing it and becoming the experts. If they are any indication, our future is looking very bright, green that is.

1 year at eugene field



We wrapped up the month with our own Global Gardens Birthday Celebration. It was our biggest community day yet!! April marked the first anniversary of tilling the garden at Eugene Field and more than 70 people showed up to celebrate all of our successes over the past year. Students, parents, teachers, and friends of Global Gardens worked together to beautify the garden. Of course no birthday party would be complete without cake. Appropriately, we served carrot cake while several of the students lead us all in song! It was a momentous day and we are looking forward to the years ahead.

celebration of hope



In an effort to dedicate the garden as a community space and bring people together, the students at Rosa Parks elementary created the concept for the Celebration of Hope. After writing letters to people they deemed important community and world leaders, more than 90 people attended the event! Mayor Kathy Taylor opened the ceremony followed by several important community leaders and Global Gardeners who all shared their hopes for the garden and our community. The attendees, along with all the Rosa Parks students created Hope Flags with personal messages of hope and peace that now fly in the garden.

Maranda's Speech, delivered at Festival Earth



Hi! I'm Maranda. Global Gardens is a community where children make gardens, class gardens and do arts and crafts. They have lots of fun learning, doing experiments and etc. Many things to do are easy and some are not. Why do I like it you ask. I like it because I get to have my own garden and a class garden. Plus I get to share with others. It is really fun to do, but very hard work. That's what I like about it, all the work!! It's worth it after you have that beautiful garden. Plus it taught me many things since I've been there, like patience, knowledge, and other things. I want you to know that Global Gardens is about building friendships and having fun. When I first came, I felt like I was at home, I felt welcome. And because of that it gave me confidence

and I worked hard to build a garden and succeeded. Now it's beautiful and I love it. It took many days and lots of sweat and strength, but I did it. And if I can do it, so can you, so try! You'll do great! And never give up!

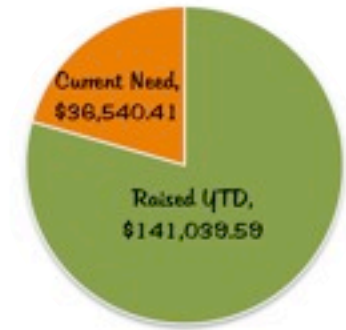
Our bank account needs watering... your continued support makes our programs possible.

Considering the growth that we have had in the last year along with the plans for the middle school program and expanding the classroom Global Gardens program at Rosa Parks we are also needing to grow our budget. Last year we had approximately \$45,000 in individual donations. What an amazing testimony that people believe in this program and our mission. Not only do people believe in it but now with a year of programming behind us we know that Global Gardens is making an impact in the community, at the schools and in the lives of individuals.

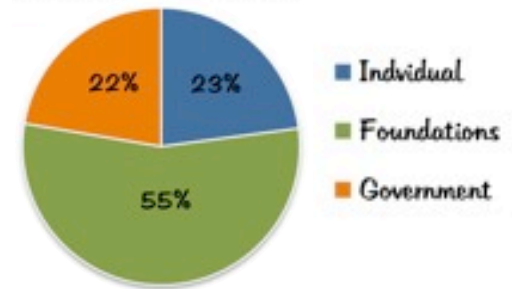
We hope that as you read about our successes you will consider a financial contribution. In relying on the community to support us we are reminded that what we have accomplished is the result of so many others. Thank you for believing in Global Gardens, in kids and in transforming education.

Tax deductible donations can be made on behalf of Global Gardens through a Tulsa Community Foundation Designated Agency Fund.
7030 S Yale Ave # 600 Tulsa, OK 74136.

Funding Needs for 2008



Giving Since Inception



Eugene Field test scores are the best yet!



The test scores at Eugene Field have steadily improved over the past five years – this year there was a dramatic jump of over 600 points. There are many factors contributing to our success but I know that our Global Gardens program has had a significant impact on our students. The community garden has been in place for a year and a half, and there is consistency as well as opportunities for reading, writing, math, science and social studies. Global Gardens is a constant in the lives of our students, their families and our staff. This wonderful program has given a much needed consistency and purpose to the lives of our community. - Principal Cindi Hemm, Eugene Field Elementary

“I have seen a major change in my sons self confidence. I want to thank you for all that you and your staff do with these kids. My son talks about it at our apartments and tells our neighbors all that he does. The students enjoy the responsibility of being in charge of some activity or cleaning up in the garden. I think that there is so much more that you can teach my son and I look forward to watching and listening to him go on about Global Gardens. Thank you again” - Parent and staff member at Eugene Field

“Global Gardens has changed a lot since the time we started. We are a family now. We care for each other, share with each other, and we even show respect, love and peace. Now if you respect others then you should remember they will show respect to you so remember just be yourself. - Alexis, 4th grader.