

Misión Peniel Community Garden

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” —Matthew 25:35

“Almost certainly, however, the first essential component of social justice is adequate food for all people. Food is the moral right of all who are born into this world.” Norman Borlaug

Purpose: To educate, inspire and equip farmworker households to grow nutritious, locally-appreciated food. The garden will feature culture specific crops with three sections: Haitian, Mexican and Guatemalan. This garden project will enable Immokalee residents and our mission partners to serve and learn together through community-based gardening.

The garden will be developed to include:

- A small fruit grove that may include: banana/plantain, mango, carambola, Barbados cherry, and sapodilla;
- Raised beds for the production of root crops and legumes;
- Raised beds for the production of culture specific crops;
- A raised bed for children’s gardening activities;
- Proper drip irrigation system;
- Chain-link fence (with three gates) to protect the garden and make it accessible for those working in it.
- A container garden demonstration area and separate propagation area;
- Centrally located pergola to support vines that yield edible products;
- Small sitting area.

Everything harvested will go directly to farmworker families at no cost and distributed through the mission.

Development of Misión Peniel’s garden is in consultation with a new non-profit, “Cultivate Abundance” of Fort Myers/Immokalee, Florida. www.cultivateabundance.org

Recent quotes from farmworker families after garden orientation:

“Nutritious food was always available to us in our homeland. We always grew some of our own food. This garden can help us do that again.”

“Our landlord allows us to grow flowers, but not food. Having a garden to share with others will help me feed my family better.”

“This garden will help me show my children how they can grow the kind of food I used to grow.”

Opportunities for Involvement:

- Volunteer in the garden;
- Participate in workshops and garden demonstrations;
- Support the project through financial and in kind donations;
- Help us develop creative ways to promote the community garden among current and new partners!

Lord, we pray for and lift up those who go to bed hungry; let us shed our apathy, and be attentive and responsive to the needs and voices of the vulnerable and oppressed.