



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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\$10,000 Grant Awarded to Habitat for Humanity and Seed of Life to Expand Community Gardens

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Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County and Seed of Life Nurseries are rolling out expansions to their community garden partnership through a generous \$10,000 grant from AMES. The grant was facilitated by Habitat for Humanity International, who was impressed by the partnership between Habitat Frederick and Seed of Life Nurseries, with community gardens already underway at Habitat's ReStore on N. Market Street. With this in mind, representatives from Habitat International contacted Habitat Frederick's Executive Director, Ron Cramer, to see if the AMES grant would allow for an expansion of the gardens under this partnership. After consulting with Mike Dickson of Seed of Life Nurseries, Cramer graciously accepted the grant.

The two organizations are excited for the new projects this grant will accomplish in the community. "I'm excited to work with AMES and Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County to create a new garden area for low income housing communities," said Dickson, referring to the first project, a new community garden at the corner at 101 W. South Street. The space, near some Habitat homes, is currently an empty and commonly used for loitering and illegal activity. The city and police had asked Dickson if he could build a garden there to turn it into a more positive gathering place. Now, the grant from AMES will make that a reality. A Groundbreaking Ceremony for that garden will take place September 16th at 8:00am and bring together the police department, city officials, Seed of Life and Habitat staff, and volunteers who will complete the garden.

This grant from AMES will also fund installation of five new My Plate gardens at local elementary schools. My Plate gardens are installed at local schools for use in lessons on science, environmental studies, and health. Items harvested from the gardens are donated back to community members, food banks and others in need.

The final project funded by the AMES grant will be a greenhouse in the gardens at the Habitat for Humanity ReStore. The greenhouse will allow gardening efforts throughout the calendar year. "We are very proud to be working with AMES to create food access and education needed for our community," reports Dickson.

About Habitat for Humanity of Frederick County:

Habitat for Humanity is a non-profit ecumenical Christian housing ministry, who invite people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need. Seeking to put God's love into action, Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities and hope. For more information about Habitat for Humanity, please visit our website at www.frederickhabitat.org or call (301) 698-2449.

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