

Transforming Problems Into Possibilities

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#TAFoodBank



*“Don’t ever make decisions based on fear. Make decisions based on hope and **possibility**. Make decisions based on what should happen, not what shouldn’t.”*
-Michelle Obama





Why Possibilities Instead of Solutions?

- ⦿ The problem is too big or complicated for a quick fix
- ⦿ The problem is a symptom of a larger need in the community
- ⦿ You want to make a larger sustained impact
- ⦿ You think it's important to be connected to your community
- ⦿ There are several related problems
- ⦿ The problem is repetitive

“Imagination is more important than knowledge.”
–Albert Einstein



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1.

Problem: Someone is Taking Vegetables From the Garden

Let's let this be transformational!

- **What are some related problems?**
- **How often does this happen?**
- **Why does this problem happen at the garden?**
- **What are the larger needs or causes?**
- **Who in your community is already addressing these needs?**
- **What are the possibilities?**

1.

Possibilities: Someone is Taking Vegetables From the Garden

Ways to grow into the possibilities...

- **Free Food Plots**
- **Start a Pantry or Host a Mobile Pantry at Your Site**
<https://tafb.org/partners/>
- **Night Pick Parties - Invite Gardeners and Neighbors (keep it social distanced for now)**
- **Create a Barter System – Pull Some Weeds/Take Some Tomatoes**
- **Signage with links to help people find food** <https://tafb.org/find-food/>

2.

Problem: Someone is Sleeping in the Garden

Let's let this be transformational!

- **What are some related problems?**
- **How often does this happen?**
- **Why does this problem happen at the garden?**
- **What are the larger needs or causes?**
- **Who in your community is already addressing these needs?**
- **What are the possibilities?**

2.

Possibilities: Someone is Sleeping in the Garden

Ways to grow into the possibilities...

- **Tarrant County Homeless Coalition** <https://ahomewithhope.org/>
- **DRC Rapid Housing Team** <https://drc-solutions.org/>
- **Provide Bus Passes to True Worth Place** <https://truworthplace.org/>
- **Create a Mini Village with the Garden at the Center**
<https://mlf.org/community-first/>

3.

Problem: We Can't Get it All Done! We Need Help!

Let's let this be transformational!

- **What are some related problems?**
- **How often does this happen?**
- **Why does this problem happen at the garden?**
- **What are the larger needs or causes?**
- **Who in your community is already addressing these needs?**
- **What are the possibilities?**

3.

Possibilities: We Can't Get it All Done! We Need Help!

Ways to grow into the possibilities...

- **TAFB Volunteer Services** <https://tafb.galaxydigital.com/user/dashboard/>
- **Texas Master Gardeners** <https://mastergardener.tamu.edu/county-programs/>
- **AmeriCorps** <https://www.nationalservice.gov/programs/americorps>
- **Partner with schools or organizations that can bring groups for experiential learning**
- **Reach out through the Neighborhood Association around your garden**
- **Allow groups to adopt a section of the garden either for care or funding**

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4.

Problem: No One Wants the *insert name of vegetable here!*

Let's let this be transformational!

- **What are some related problems?**
- **How often does this happen?**
- **Why does this problem happen at the garden?**
- **What are the larger needs or causes?**
- **Who in your community is already addressing these needs?**
- **What are the possibilities?**

4.

Possibilities: No One Wants the *insert name of vegetable here!*

Ways to grow into the possibilities...

- **Share Recipes with the Produce**
<https://tafb.org/services/community-nutrition/recipes/>
- **Offer a Cooking Demo for the Produce**
www.tarrantareafoodbank.eventbrite.com
<https://www.youtube.com/TarrantAreaFoodBank>
- **Label them clearly and creatively**
- **Partner with local chefs for pictures, recipes, or to share produce.**

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5.

Problem: There's a Lot of Food Waste in Our Kitchen/Pantry/Etc.

Let's let this be transformational!

- **What are some related problems?**
- **How often does this happen?**
- **Why does this problem happen at the garden?**
- **What are the larger needs or causes?**
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5.

Possibilities: There's a Lot of Food Waste in Our Kitchen/Pantry/Etc.

Ways to grow into the possibilities...

- **Partner with a local garden to provide them with compost materials.**
- **In Fort Worth: Contact the Materials Management Team**
MMP@FortWorthTexas.gov
- **Consider ways to partner with organizations who provide meals in your community.**



KEEP TRANSFORMING

6.

Problem: The Insects and Weeds are Winning!

Let's let this be transformational!

- **What are some related problems?**
- **How often does this happen?**
- **Why does this problem happen at the garden?**
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- **What are the possibilities?**

6.

Possibilities: The Insects and Weeds are Winning!

Ways to grow into the possibilities...

- **Chicken or goat tractors**
- **Have an intentional bed for weeds or offer an edible weeds class.**
- **Chip Drop/local tree trimmers/free mulch from the city**
- **Partner with schools that want to do a hands-on insect IPM lesson**
- **Offer the tastiest insects free to neighbors with chickens or reptiles or to a local chef if they'll come collect**
- **Partner with Master Gardeners who can help you with control measures.**
- **Use signage to turn pests and weeds into education**

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*“A weed is just a flower
growing in the wrong place.”*
–George Washington Carver

*“What is a weed? A plant
whose virtues have not **yet**
been discovered.”*
–Ralph Waldo Emerson



7.

Problem: We Went Big and Now We Have Too Much Produce!

Let's let this be transformational!

- **What are some related problems?**
- **How often does this happen?**
- **Why does this problem happen at the garden?**
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- **What are the possibilities?**

7.

Possibilities: We Went Big and Now We Have Too Much Produce!

Ways to grow into the possibilities...

- **Pick Your Own Nights**
- **Donate to Local Food Pantries**
- **Canning and Preserving**
- **Learn to sell it!**
- **Neighborhood parties (or for now virtual parties with a garden basket drop off)**

8.

Problem: Covid-19

Let's let this be transformational!

- **What are some related problems?**
- **How often does this happen?**
- **Why does this problem happen at the garden?**
- **What are the larger needs or causes?**
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- **What are the possibilities?**

8.

Possibilities: Covid-19

Ways to grow into the possibilities...

- **Outdoor classroom partnerships**
- **Virtual garden workshops**
- **Socially distanced workdays in the garden**
- **Outdoor exercise opportunities**
- **Outdoor meeting spaces**



Share Other Problems & Possibilities

Let's let these be transformational!

- **What are some related problems?**
- **How often does this happen?**
- **Why does this problem happen at the garden?**
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- **Who in your community is already addressing these needs?**
- **What are the possibilities?**



Keep Growing



Thanks!

Any questions?



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<https://tafb.org>

Additional Resources to Explore:

<http://www.tarrantcountyfoodpolicycouncil.org/resources---reports.html>

<https://www.feedingamerica.org/find-your-local-foodbank>

<https://www.unitedwaytarrant.org/2-1-1/>

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