

FORWARD Initiative Newsletter

August 2013

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Community Gardens Workshop

When: Friday, August 16th, 2:00-3:30 PM

Where: North Central College, Naperville, IL

Attend this workshop if you...

- Have an edible (fruit/vegetable/herb) community garden
- Are a park district offering or considering offering community garden plots
- Are interested in donating your locally grown produce to a local food pantry
- Are thinking about adding fresh produce to the school menu
- Are a business that is creating gardens for employees
- Are a school, park district, organization, church or garden group

This is a "don't miss" workshop if you want to learn how to start a community garden, find out about resources, discover DuPage gardens and network with others who love gardening!

Please help us to spread the word and invite others who are interested in community gardening.

[Find out more!](#)

FORWARD 2013 "Get in the Action" Mini Grants

Begin brainstorming! FORWARD's next round of "Get in the Action" Mini Grants will be seeking applicants beginning in early September. Be on the lookout for an email from FORWARD with more details. This funding, made possible by Cadence Health and Willowbrook, Naperville, Wheaton and Hinsdale Whole Foods Stores, is available to organizations serving residents of DuPage County and may include units of local government (such as schools and libraries), small businesses and non-profit organizations. Funding will not be available to individuals. Funding priority will be given to those who plan to implement sustainable policy, systems, or environmental strategies that create lasting change, and projects having the greatest impact on high-risk or at-risk populations, including lower socio-economic and

racial/ethnic minority populations. Projects must somehow incorporate the [evidence-based 5-4-3-2-1 Go! messaging](#).

FORWARD Coalition Meeting: Save the Date

FORWARD's next Coalition Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 5th at Danada House in Wheaton. A link to register will be released in October.

New Resources

Whole Kids Foundation Accepting Applications for School Garden Grant Program

In collaboration with FoodCorps, the Whole Kids Foundation is accepting applications for the School Garden Grant Program, which supports school garden projects that help students learn about complex topics such as nutrition and health, sustainability and conservation, food systems, and community awareness.

See the Whole Kids Foundation [website](#) for complete program guidelines, an FAQ, and the online application form.

2013 State Breakfast Challenge

The second year of the Illinois State Breakfast Challenge kicks off beginning in August. Studies show that children who eat breakfast not only do better in school, but they have better attendance and have less behavior problems. The challenge aims to increase the number of students who eat breakfast at school. All schools that offer school breakfast are automatically entered into the challenge. The schools are divided into four tiers based on their enrollment. The top three schools in each tier who increase their average daily breakfast participation the most, will win money for their school. Participation increase will be calculated by comparing the school breakfast program average daily participation rate for the 2012-2013 school year with the 2013-2014 school year. The state breakfast challenge is sponsored by the Midwest Dairy Council, Illinois No Kid Hungry Campaign, and the Illinois State Board of Education.

We encourage you to share this information with your networks. You can find out more about the challenge and work that is being done in Illinois to feed hungry children by visiting www.il.nokidhungry.org.

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