2017
HEALTHY FOOD ACCESS PROJECTS

Iowa State University
Extension and Outreach
SNAP-Education
2017 IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:
Growing Together promotes healthy food access for families with low income through a partnership between ISU’s SNAP-Ed program, Master Gardener volunteers, ISU Research Farms and Iowa food pantries. In 2017, fifteen Master Gardener volunteer teams worked with food pantries in their communities to provide them with fresh produce throughout the growing season.

- **231 Master Gardener volunteers** committed time to support healthy food access in their communities.
- **75 food pantries and meal sites** received donations through Growing Together.
- **Master Gardener teams leveraged more than $18,400** in local community funding.

Table to Table keeps wholesome, edible food from going to waste by collecting it from donors and distributing it to those in need through agencies that serve Iowans with low income. Through its partnership with SNAP-Ed, Table to Table has been able to rescue and distribute foods that are often in short supply at food pantries including fruits, vegetables and dairy products. Rescued items come from farms, donation plots, warehouses, retail grocery stores, orchards and farmers markets.
Fruits and vegetables are critical for a healthy diet. According to a Feeding America survey (2014), the #1 type of food desired by Iowa food pantry participants that is not widely available at pantries is fresh fruits and vegetables. Growing Together is working to change that.

(Citation: Feeding America, Hunger in America, 2014)