

those in need. Seeds are inexpensive and with a little tender loving care they become a nourishing gift beyond compare.

Schaller said MANNA is also grateful for more informal donations of fresh vegetables, preferably between 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. weekdays. So, if your garden is producing more than you can possibly preserve, consider a donation to MANNA.

You'll have the joy of imagining, as Johnson does, the pleasure your gift will bring.

[From New Horizons, Nov./Dec. 2002]

T.C. ROBERSON HIGH SCHOOL FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA

Here in Asheville, a city of 60,000 people in the hills of western North Carolina, the MANNA Food Bank feeds people in need across a 19-county area. They do their best to keep food moving to soup kitchens, the elderly, child daycare centers for families with low incomes and anywhere else where people have trouble putting food on the table.

A few years ago, Lonnie Johnson, the Roberson FFA Chapter advisor, heard about MANNA's "Plant a Row for the Hungry" program, where local citizens donate a portion of their garden vegetables to the food bank.

Johnson recognized the opportunity and pounced on it. "There are people in our community who have needs, and if we can help meet those needs, then there's a lot of learning that can go on." Johnson says.

BREAKING GROUND

Roberson FFA members quickly latched onto the project. For many, it's a hands-on component for horticulture class. For others, it's afterschool volunteerism.

Jacob Laughter, a junior who currently serves as FFA chapter president, has been at Roberson High since the project began. "I got to break ground for the beginning of our garden with our new Troy-Bilt tiller. I was also part of the seeding process, where we dug small holes to plant our seeds."

Senior Jenny Stove, the FFA chapter secretary, is just glad she has the opportunity to be involved. "I think I love to work in the garden more than all else," she says. "Behind our greenhouse, we have corn that grows mile-high, spinach that the local rabbits eat, onions, collard greens cucumbers and zucchini."

It's fresh vegetables like these that are considered delicacies at the food bank, where most of the food distributed is packaged in cans and boxes. "People really get excited when they get fresh produce," Johnson says.

While this modest, one-third of an acre garden isn't breaking any records for size, everything from the garden is donated to the food bank. So far, the small parcel of ground has yielded hundreds of pounds of vegetables, and counting.

Deborah Stines, a junior, likes the harvest best. "I enjoy working in the garden because I like to pick the vegetables and be able to say to myself, 'Hey, I planted this, and it grew!'" When the time for harvest arrives, the FFA crew loads and drives the procedure to MANNA's loading dock, where workers eight the load and give the students a receipt.

IN THE NEWS

The chapter's efforts haven't gone unnoticed. Editors at the Asheville Citizen-Times caught wind of the FFA chapter's project in July. In a lengthy editorial, they had this to say: "Kudos to Johnson and his students, who have pointed the way for other schools." After this appeared in the newspaper, the phone in the agriculture shop started ringing.

As a result of the editorial, people from the school and the community called and wanted to visit the garden. "It just perked them up

and made them feel good," Johnson says. Soon thereafter, a local television station and the school's own televised news program quickly picked up the story.

While these FFA members appreciate the positive publicity their FFA chapter has received, they realize something more important is happening. Their gardening project has built public awareness of hunger—a move that will put Asheville, and the world, a few steps closer to making sure everyone has enough food to eat.

IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Krystal Dorsey, a sophomore, didn't have any community service experience a couple of years ago. "After working on this project," she says, "I started to realize how important it is to do things for others, as well as how awesome it feels."

Jessica Stouder, a junior, echoes those sentiments: "It makes me glad to see that if students are working like this to help a cause here in little Asheville, then think of the big difference we could make all over the country."

TRIBUTE TO NICK PINO

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to honor Nick Pino of Pueblo, Colorado for the selfless act of courage he displayed on November 8, 2002. Nick's quick actions, along with the efforts of other students from Centennial High School, helped Edith Lichtenberg to safety after flames engulfed her home.

On November 8, 2002, billowing smoke one block from Centennial High School prompted a group of students—Prince Speights, Clint Albrecht, Nick Pino, Kathy Ortiz, Linus Trujillo, and Taylor Proctor—into action. Driving toward the smoke, the group quickly discovered the bushes and trees in 86-year-old Edith Lichtenberg's yard ablaze and used a cell phone to contact emergency dispatchers. The flames rapidly spread to the house and the group moved swiftly to make sure no one was in the home. With the fire engulfing the front of the house, the students jumped the locked fence around the backyard to warn anyone who might still be inside. Noticing the back door open and seeing Ms. Lichtenberg still inside, they caught her attention and guided her outside away from the flames. Nick courageously assisted in getting Ms. Lichtenberg out of the house, and the group moved her to safety.

The youths maintained their composure during a time of adversity and conducted themselves in a fashion that has brought honor to themselves, their families, their school, and the entire community of Pueblo. It is always heartening to see young Americans meet such an extraordinary circumstance successfully. Courage like theirs strengthens and protects our communities everyday.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to rise today and recognize the heroic efforts of Nick Pino before this body of Congress and this nation. Nick's quick actions, coupled with those of his fellow students, prevented a terrible fire from ending in great tragedy. Their selfless actions are an inspiration to us all, and it is an honor to represent such an outstanding group of Americans in this Congress.

IN RECOGNITION OF GOUVERNEUR HEALTHCARE SERVICES

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 11, 2003

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to pay tribute to Gouverneur Healthcare Services, on the occasion of their Annual Chinese New Year Celebration. Founded in 1885, Gouverneur Healthcare Services has a rich and lengthy history of providing innovative healthcare services for New Yorkers and their families.

In 1885, Gouverneur made history by becoming America's first public hospital to establish a tuberculosis clinic. As a pioneer in healthcare, it was also the first institution to employ a female physician on its ambulance service as well as the first to set up day camp on a boat for undernourished adults and children. A century later, Gouverneur established Project HELP, the first psychiatric mobile crisis unit for homeless, mentally ill individuals. These are just a few examples of Gouverneur's ability to create innovative programs to fulfill the needs of our community.

Gouverneur's 210 bed Nursing Facility has provided outstanding skilled nursing and rehabilitation care for over a quarter of a century. Care is provided in an ethnically and culturally sensitive manner, with special programs for Chinese and Hispanics. In addition, Gouverneur's ambulatory care facility, with over 300,000 visits in FY 1998, is one of the city's busiest. Among Gouverneur's many notable services is the Diagnostic and Treatment Center, which is the largest in New York State, providing more than 300,000 visits each year. The center focuses on maintaining patient wellness through a wide range of outpatient diagnostic and healthcare services including general medicine, pediatrics, gynecology, obstetrics, HIV care, behavioral health, dentistry, podiatry, dermatology and an eye clinic.

Gouverneur aims to reach all members of the culturally and ethnically rich Manhattan community. Special programs include the Asian Bicultural Unit, which provides psychiatric services for members of the Asian community, and the Roberto Clemente Center and the Sylvia Del Villard Continuing Day Treatment Program, which offer mental health programs designed to suit the needs of the Latino community.

Gouverneur's attentive concern and dedication to a multi-cultural patient population have made it a leader in providing services to non-English speaking patients. Gouverneur's staff is multilingual and is devoted to meeting each patients' individual needs. For example, Gouverneur's nursing facility provides Chinese, English and Spanish menus, with an emphasis on individual food preferences.

Gouverneur's multicultural services department works diligently to ensure that each and every patient feels comfortable while his or her healthcare needs are addressed. The department has members and volunteers that provide interpreting services in various languages, and printed materials are available in English, Chinese and Spanish throughout the facility. Gouverneur has also piloted TEMIS,