

Ground Works

Growing Opportunities

ground works

www.groundwrks.
wordpress.com



Visual artist and staff, Hannah Rae Price designs the table settings for the evening. Hayward Elementary 2nd grade students provided the placemats of their "dream garden."

April 2012

From the Director's Desk:

Spring Solstice Celebration and Fundraiser Update

On behalf of **Ground Works** we are pleased to announce that the fundraiser held on March 22, 2012 netted approximately \$4,000 in ticket sales and auction revenue. With in-kind donations from multiple sources the total support generated was nearly \$8,000.

Thank you to Jon Michaels of Backyard Broadcasting, Jeremy and Jonathon Hegg, Jon Barcanic, Billy Mawhiney, Randy and Susan Kamrath, John and Lorraine Price, SDSU Extension, and the SD School for the Deaf for all your support and generous donations.

Mark your calendars for next year's Spring Celebration on Thursday, March 21, 2012. It promises to be an EVENT!

"You had a great program, great auction items, just out of this world food! I have received several questions about my programs from the event." Billy Mawhiney, guest caterer, CEO *Time at the Table*-Mitchell, SD

Thank you for your investment of funding to support the mission of **Ground Works** at the recent Spring Solstice. Congratulations to the many who provide funding, in-kind gifts, time and energy to impact the lives of more than 1500 students during 2012. Your investments are building the foundation to expand and maintain school teaching gardens in South Dakota, and the SW Minnesota and NW Iowa region. Your continuing partnership in the **Ground Works** movement will make it possible to involve 5,000 students in school teaching gardens by 2016.

Shalom,
Rev. Tim Olsen
Executive Director

Board member, Chris Zdorostov and A Growing Place garden manager, Tina Kucker lend a helping hand registering auction numbers for **Ground Works**.



Hayward Elementary Plotting and Planning!



Hayward Elementary is the newest site for **Ground Works** school teaching gardens.

After a year of planning, the 12 bed teaching garden is set to be built this spring. Hayward principal, Kiersta Mahachek says, "The garden will be a breath of fresh air for this school and the community." Hayward team members and neighborhood residents, Jon and Cindi Merchant comment: "We have started asking people what they would like to see happen and what needs they may have." Motivated by the community aspect of the garden, Jon and Cindi are excited to see what assets their neighbors will bring to the garden and other projects.

Next will be construction of the 12 beds, composting the area, readying the soil, and planting. If you would like to be involved, email **Ground Works** at info@groundworks-midwest.com or call Rev. Tim Olsen at 507-227-5919



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Why We Do What We Do.

From initial conversation, setting up teams, resourcing assets, building beds, plotting,, planning, and FINALLY planting, **Ground Works** recognizes the hard work of all partners and volunteers involved. As another growing season begins and we anticipate new school teaching gardens, we pause for a moment to reflect on what motivates this work.

Executive Director, Tim Olsen, summarized it best. **“During the upcoming weeks one can drive past the A Growing Place teaching garden at Lowell MST Elementary School, Sioux Falls, and hear the sounds of children laughing, awed by the wonders of the garden. For the fourth year, students at Lowell will be delighted as math, science, language arts, art, social studies, and healthy nutrition skills, is applied to the growing of a garden, become relevant and alive. Soon students at Hayward Elementary, Sioux Falls, and Lennox Elementary School, Lennox, SD will not only learn academic lessons in teaching gardens, they will practice teamwork, leadership, and the skills of being a great neighbor.”** I believe it is true, **“everything a person needs to know about life and living can be learned in the garden.”**



Confluence Landscape Architech—Chad Kucker Pro Chicken! Pro **Ground Works!**

When **Ground Works** asked Chad Kucker if he would like to partner for the Spring Fundraiser, we had no idea what he had in mind. What he designed and constructed in a matter of weeks was amazing. The chicken coop, constructed mostly out of salvaged/scrup lumber is able to accommodate 6 hens with coop dimensions equaling 3'-2" x 8'-6". As excitement builds around the concept of Urban Agriculture and a sense to “return to nature”, raising chickens for food, compost, and entepreneurship seems a logical choice for Chad Kucker. Thank you again, Chad and Confluence for your creative generosity.



Volunteers of America - Dakotas Rainbarrels Partnerships for Change! Donate to Ground Works

At Volunteers of America-Dakotas, we serve adolescent and adult males with developmental disabilities. The South Dakota Department of Human Services, Division of Developmental Disabilities, has certified the program as a Community Support Provider.

The men we support have had the opportunity to create these rain barrels. They have completed these barrels by making their own design and have done all the work by themselves. This has been a wonderful partnership with the City of Sioux Falls and Volunteers of America-Dakotas to give some of the individuals an opportunity to create and develop their own work opportunity. The work on the rain barrels is a way for them to express their own creativity. The rain barrels are environmentally friendly, as the barrel does not end up in the landfill, and can capture rainwater in the barrel to water flowers or plants in a garden or home.

For more information or to purchase a hand-painted rainbarrel, please call: 605-274-0669

Ground Works is thankful to the continuing support and partnership of the Sioux Falls Sustainability Office and Volunteers of America. We look forward to many more collaborations.



This rainbarrel was donated by Sioux Falls Sustainability Office for the March 22 Celebration and Fundraiser. Thank you for your generous support of **Ground Works**

