
COMMUNITY HARVEST FESTIVAL

William Cullen Bryant School

Cleveland, Ohio

A dedicated team of parents, staff, community members, Parkworks representatives, and a local councilman installed a playground and learning garden at William Cullen Bryant. The school's gardening program involved students in the safe use of tools, gardening techniques, plant life cycles, using the harvest, and sharing the harvest with others. Grants from the Ohio State Extension and MBNA provided plants, tools, and gardening books for the school library. The Core Team planned the Community Harvest Festival to celebrate a successful harvest.

Thirty students volunteered to work with the learning garden. Parents gave permission for their children to work on the garden over the summer. Staff helped the students to plan and plant the garden. Every Monday morning from 9:00-10:00 during the summer months, students and staff weeded and tended the garden. Neighbors watched over the garden to protect it from vandalism. As the produce ripened, students harvested the vegetables to make a salad luncheon to enjoy their success. After the last harvest in early fall, students donated the produce to the Community Harvest Festival.

Over 300 people attended the two-hour Community Harvest Festival. Families enjoyed food and music and participated in activities and games. Interested adults re-

ceived information about GED classes and Project ACT. The Core Team charged an admission price of \$0.25 per person, which helped raise money for the Harvest for Hunger program.

Students learned about gardening, preparing food, and working together. They also developed a sense of pride in their school and their ability to contribute to the community. Staff, families, and community members enjoyed the Community Harvest Festival and sharing the rewards of the gardeners' hard work.

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