



Great Northern Hydroponics Donates Tomatoes to Help Detroit Hunger

Detroit-based food rescue, Forgotten Harvest, currently rescues 9.5 million pounds of perishable and prepared foods per year and delivers them to organizations that serve the hungry. Last summer, refrigerated trucks began accepting donations from Great Northern Hydroponics, a 50-acre tomato greenhouse in southern Ontario.

The rescued tomatoes are unsuitable for commercial sale because of minor surface imperfections, but are otherwise completely healthy. The tomatoes now go to help feed

the 500,000 people in the Detroit's tri-county area who live below the poverty level.

"The quality and quantity of the tomatoes from Northern Hydroponics are pretty remarkable," said Monica Luoma, director of Communications at Forgotten Harvest. Luoma believes that food rescues like Forgotten Harvest are the critical link connecting rescued food to the people who need it the most.

Punk Garden Aids Teenage Cancer

John Tilley, owner of Dragonfly Garden Design Macclesfield, UK is gardening with a mission: to help fundraise for the Teenage Cancer Trust. He lost his own mum to cancer and felt inspired to apply his unusual garden design, "Punk's Not Dead," to the Royal Horticultural Society alongside 100's of competitors for a slot at the prestigious RHS Tatton Flower Show this summer to raise money for the trust. The garden illustrates the cultural clash between teenagers and their parent's generation: one side is a Italian garden representing the orderly adult life

with hedges, topiary plants and lavender and the other side features a punk inspired-design with a graffiti wall and spiky punk plants like Cordyline, Yucca, Agave and Araucaria Araucana (monkey puzzle) plant.

Six teenagers are diagnosed with cancer each day, that's over 2,000 every year. But these patients don't stop being teenagers just because they get cancer. Teenage Cancer Trust ensures that young cancer patients get the best possible care in hospitals and the chance to do all the things that other teenagers do. www.rhs.org.uk/tatton/2008

Maldives Autopot Project Aids Tsunami Relief

Autopot oversaw the construction of two greenhouses in the two wards of Noonu Kendhikulhudhoo island in Maldives with financial assistance from the Force of Nature Aid Foundation (FON). With help from an Autopot specialist, sweet melon and rock melon seeds were planted by community members in a medium of broken bricks. In this region of the world, there is a shortage of suitable land for agriculture, the soils allocated for crop production are very poor (they have sandy and have poor moisture and nutrient retention capacity); fresh water is limited and rainwater is the only source for





agricultural application. Well water is available for field application, but it contains too much salt (EC of 1 to 1.4) to be suitable for hydroponic use. Most of the food stuff (an estimated value of US \$30 million annually) has to be imported into the country to serve the tourists as well as the local population. The Autopot technique is different from systems such as NFT and drip-to-waste. It allows users to accurately dose the nutrients to the plants without the salt build-up problems many hydroponics experts expect. There is no run-off and no flushing is needed.

Florida Food Bank Starts Hydroponic Garden

Martha O'Brien, assistant CEO of food

bank, Volunteer Way in New Port Richey, Florida will start a hydroponic operation behind the Volunteer Way's warehouse on 6.8 acres of donated land. Currently the food bank gets very few donations of fresh produce to feed the some 8,000 families they service as well as 70 faith-based organizations who do daily pick-ups. The demand for food is great, especially, says O'Brien, in this economic downturn. She reports that 25 to 30 new families come for food every day. The nonprofit has only one paid employee, so the operation relies heavily on volunteers and

donations. And of course, the potential of feeding food bank drop-ins fresh vegetables is quite appealing.

O'Brien said the group was inspired to grow hydroponically after seeing the hydroponic projects by the inmates at the Pasco Sheriff's office county jail have been growing lettuce. One article in the *Sun Coast News* reported that the jail hydroponics project

yielded 77,242 heads of lettuce and saved the law enforcement agency \$230,954.

People who wish to volunteer their time or to donate can call the Volunteer Way office at 727-815-0433. For more information, visit www.thevolunteerway.org.

Know of any other humanitarian hydroponic projects? E-mail the editor at Jenie@growingedge.com

DRAGONFLY

Dragonfly Garden Design
Jon Tilley, the managing director of Dragonfly, is an award winning builder and garden designer. He introduces the story behind 'Punk's Not Dead'.

I have been supporting cancer charities since the death of my Mum, with an event called 'Martial Arts Fighting Cancer'. Over the last few years supporting The Teenage Cancer Trust it seemed a natural idea to suggest we design a garden at Toton to raise awareness for The TCT.

The idea for 'Punk's Not Dead' materialised in the middle of a sleepless night, inspired by a journey to school in 1977. The 'Today' programme on BBC Radio 4 had been covering the controversy being caused by The Sex Pistols song 'God Save The Queen'. What a bizarre cultural mix, an executive father, Radio 4, The Sex Pistols and me!

A beautifully contrasting combination of ideas to ideally suit our quest to find a suitable design for The TCT and highlight the plight of teenagers with cancer.

www.dragonflygarden.co.uk

PUNK'S NOT DEAD

The Teenage Cancer Trust
The Teenage Cancer Trust is a charity devoted to improving the lives of teenagers and young adults with cancer. TCT achieves its goals through a number of initiatives, all dependent on private fundraising efforts that range from high profile concerts and sponsored triks, to local community events and personal charitable giving.

Over 2000 teenagers and young adults are diagnosed with cancer each year and the TCT offers specialist units to treat and care for these young people.

www.teenagecancertrust.org

THE TEAM

The Team
We would like to thank all our sponsors for their help, particularly Magnus Ltd. We could not have completed the garden design without their help, from building merchants to plant hire companies, their help for a good cause has been invaluable.

Although Dragonfly garden design completed most of the landscaping work, we would like to thank all the individuals and companies who helped in the construction. We would particularly like to thank Laserline digital imaging who not only printed this brochure, but also created our graffiti wall by producing weather-proof 'foamex' images.

We would also like to thank our staff and friends particularly Dan, Rob, Mark and Tony we appreciate all your hard work.

We would like to recommend all our sponsors listed on the rear of this brochure as honest companies offering great service.

Finally, I would like to thank my family who have offered so much support.

The Design
Our design shows the cultural clash between teenagers and their parents generation.

One side is an Italian style garden with formal planting and controlled, topiary plants. An ancient stone wall includes a Roman grotto.

The other side smashes through the world and encompasses spiky Punk plants, graffiti, wall and Punk inspired design features. The garden is designed as a Teenage Cancer Trust garden with one side to relax in and their punk garden to enjoy.

The Planting
Within the formal garden, we have used clipped box hedging, topiary plants, washed by a sea of lavender! In the Punk garden we have used spiky punk plants including Cordylina, Yucca, agave and crashing through them like a young punk diving through the crowd we have used Araucaria Araucana (monkey puzzle) which is sourced from one of the only Chilean suppliers who has a CITES certificate and by law has to replant a large proportion of the young seedlings to revive the dangerously depleted Chilean forests.

The lavender is being sold off at the end of the show to raise funds for the TCT, so please buy one.