



ground works

Do you have office management skills? **GROUND WORKS** is looking for a [Volunteer](#) to help with database entry, mailing, filing, and office organization 1 day a week. Contact Tim Olsen, Executive Director for information.

www.groundworks-midwest.com

Ground Works

Growing Opportunities

Hayward Elementary **CREATIVE DREAMS** Garden: A Call to Leadership!

On the lawn, flanked by handmade raised garden beds, more than 200 3rd and 4th grade students gathered to dedicate and name the newest school teaching garden in the Sioux Falls school district.

Hayward Elementary **Creative Dreams** garden boasts 12 beds complete with compost and top soil. The students finished off their school year on May 15 with a Field Day outside planting and working in the garden beds. Garden manager and Hayward art teacher, Paul Rajski, plans to maintain the garden this summer and is hopeful that parents, students, and community members see this as a chance to work together. "I hope it just keeps growing and growing, not just the plants, but the whole concept of gardening and working side-by-side." Working together and being great neighbors is exactly what **GROUND WORKS** hopes happens at Hayward Elementary."



One of the highlights from the Hayward school teaching garden launch was the "Passing forward the gift." Students were accompanied by their A Growing Place teaching garden manager and kindergarten teacher, Tina Kucker, from Lowell Elementary, to present the students at Hayward grown transplant plants for their garden beds. The student grew them under their grow labs specifically for this occasion. Rev. Tim Olsen, Executive Director of **GROUND WORKS** challenged the students at Hayward to pass the gift forward to the next school teaching garden spot. "Can you promise me, you'll be great neighbors and great leaders and share the gift you have been given?" The students were eager to agree.



Hayward school principal, Kiersta Machecek, is also excited to see the student ownership and leadership that will take place.

"We are depending on you. You are the leaders who will make this garden a safe place to be. We are counting on you to be those leaders."

Partners Hand-in-Hand

The public launch of the Hayward Elementary **Creative Dreams** garden was a success because of the partners involved. **GROUND WORKS** thanks: Sioux Empire Housing Partnership, Schoeneman's Building Materials Center, Heberts Greenhouse, Soukup Construction, Crosspointe Baptist Church, Hayward Elementary teachers and staff, Minnehaha Master Gardeners, SDSU Extension, Sioux Falls Street Department, A Growing Place teaching garden, and all the volunteers, students, parents, teachers, and neighbors. The collective excitement from the students, teachers, and neighbors remains the hallmark of what can be accomplished when partners work hand-in-hand with one another.



Sioux Empire Housing Partnership Executive Director, Jim Schmidt shares his love of children and farming with students from Hayward Elementary



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“The Joy is in the Kids’ Faces.”

Garden educator, Jo Flesner is spending her second summer doing what she loves. “I love working in the garden, seeing the joy in the kids’ faces, and watching growth happen.”

Jo has been active at Lowell Elementary MST, as a liaison for students, parents, teachers and the garden for the last 2 summers. Jo has been vital in helping teachers incorporate the garden curriculum, planting, harvesting, connecting, and teaching the students at Lowell. “This spring was the first time we have seen every student planting in the garden. I saw every single student. Nothing compares to that.”

Understanding the health benefits of good food, creation care, leadership, holistic health and wellness drives Jo to pour into the lives of the children and families at Lowell Elementary. **GROUND WORKS** is grateful for the impact Jo, “the garden lady” Flesner makes in growing opportunities



Jo Flesner teaching the 2-finger planting rule at A Growing Place teaching garden.

A Growing Place school teaching garden garden camp schedule:

June 11-14 M-Th 8:30 – 10:30 am

June 18-21 M-Th 8:30 – 10:30 am

July 9-12 M-Th 8:30 – 10:30 am

Evening dates are available for the **WHOLE** family.

July 30 6:30 pm & August 1 6:30 pm

Thank You Sioux Falls Kiwanis for your grant support to **GROUND WORKS**

Thank You Sioux Valley Optimist, they awarded **GROUND WORKS** a matching grant with Optimist International for a school teaching garden at the Children’s Home Society

CONGRATULATIONS to *Sioux Falls Children’s Home Society*. They will join the **GROUND WORKS** school teaching garden family summer 2012.



Garden manager and Lowell Elementary MST teacher, Tina Kucker, teaching Harvest of the Month attendees on June 5, 2012. Learning and applying the concept of school gardens and healthy foods and nutrition is the focus for the training.



SHIFT house located at 726 N. Highland Ave. Sioux Falls, SD is the realization of a dream in sustainable and innovative affordable housing. Ribbon cutting held June 5, 2012. **GROUND WORKS** is a collaborator with the Sioux Falls Affordable Housing Dream Team.

GROUND WORKS Summer Schedule.

Harvest of the Month education June 12-13 Rapid City and August 7-8 Pierre

MIXED! Go Green! celebrates 2 years, June 15 with a **GROUND WORKS** day.

MIXED! is a **GROUND WORKS** business partner, 2604 S. Louise Ave. Come for lunch, stay for fun!

Garden Tours with **GROUND WORKS** staff and volunteers July 10 Time TBD.

Hayward Elementary **Creative Dreams** garden celebration and **GROUND WORKS** Fundraiser August 2 Time 6:00 pm

4th Annual Harvest Festival Lowell Elementary September 15. Mayor Huether listening session held 11:30 am.