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Community team completes garden tool library

Tuesday, 01 April 2014 Written By Staff Reports

GREENVILLE, S.C. – A team representing the 16th Upstate class of Furman University's Riley Institute Diversity Leaders Initiative recently completed a tool library project that will help connect local volunteers with the supplies necessary to cultivate community gardens.

The tool library targets gardens in Greenville County that serve low-income, high-need populations. The library is located in West Greenville at 205 Cedar Lane Road and is operated by Gardening for Good, a group that works to use gardens to revitalize neighborhoods and improve the health of residents.

"This tool library will allow Gardening for Good to serve more community gardens by providing access to a greater supply of tools that volunteers can check out as needed," said Reece Lyerly, Gardening for Good director."

"The goal of our DLI team was to support diversity in Greenville County," said Joshua Friesen, Riley Fellow and director of marketing at Greenville Technical College. "We are excited to support Gardening for Good in community gardening efforts, many of which bring together a diverse group of people around common goals of increasing access to fresh food and improving health."

Last week, the tools in the library were used by a group of volunteers from Greenville Technical College as they worked to help prepare beds for spring planting. This was the third year in a row that a "Greenville Tech Gives Back" group worked in the West Greenville community, but the first year that volunteers did not have to bring their own tools.

Launched in 2003, Furman University's Riley Institute Diversity Leaders Initiative assists community leaders in dealing with the challenges and opportunities presented by the many facets of diversity in South Carolina, including differences in cultural background, language, gender and physical ability. Over 1,000 CEOs of corporations, mayors, city and county council members, legislators, school superintendents, pastors and rabbis, non-profit heads, chamber of commerce directors and community leaders have graduated from the program.

The tool library Diversity Leaders Initiative team includes Hasker Hudgens, Marianne Wilson, Mike Boggs, Joshua Friesen, Mark Rickards, John Slipke, Barbara Wilson, Deborah Smith and Sonya Cunningham.

Fundraising for the tool library was conducted by the team and made possible through donations by the Greenville Health System, Goodwill Industries, Miracle Hills Ministries, the United Way of Greenville County, Michelin North America, Lowe's at N.W. Greenville and an anonymous donor.

On the Web:

[Furman University's Riley Institute Diversity Leaders Initiative](#)

[Gardening for Good](#)

[Greenville Technical College](#)

(Pictured: Reece Lyerly of Gardening for Good (left) and Joshua Friesen, representing the 16th Upstate class of the Riley Institute Diversity Leaders Initiative, celebrate completion of a tool library project that benefits local community gardens.)

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Upcoming Community Events

Tue Apr 22 @ 7:00PM - 09:30PM
[The Forest Coffeehouse: Open Mic Night](#)

Sat Apr 26
[Travelers Rest: Great American Cleanup](#)

Sat Apr 26 @ 11:00AM - 03:00PM
[Paris Mountain State Park: Annual Friends Day](#)

Sat Apr 26 @ 11:00AM - 03:00PM
[Tigerville FD: Community Safety Day](#)

Sat Apr 26 @ 5:00PM - 08:00PM
[Slater Hall: The Slater Shag](#)