

The Green Heart Project

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THE CITADEL

KRAUSE CENTER FOR
LEADERSHIP AND ETHICS

BACKGROUND

- The Green Heart Project builds garden-based experiential learning projects and school garden programs to educate students connect people and cultivate community through growing, eating, and celebrating food.
- Located on the peninsula of Charleston, SC, many of the local schools do not have real estate nor resources to educate children about the power and sustainable lessons agriculture and citizenship has to offer.
- Our Alternative Spring Break (ASB) group demolished and reconstructed raised planting beds to allow classrooms to plant and produce crops for their experiential learning experience.

ISSUES

- Our ASB group spent 4 days on site; working with their hands doing hard physical labor being an invaluable resource to The Green Hearts Project.
- The old planting beds were removed along with cluttered yard debris from the strong Charleston storms. Once the site was cleared and prepped, the main focus was to build new planting beds using power tools and strong arms.
- Team work was constant throughout the entire process to enable the project to be done effectively to the highest degree of quality.
- Our group of 12 from ASB gave up their traditional spring break and dedicated their time towards helping environment. The Green Heart



SERVICE

Specific tasks that were accomplished over the week were:

- Clearing brush and debris from a path for students to explore the garden safely.
- Demolished old planting beds that were weathered and rotted, to be replaced by newly constructed raised garden beds.
- Planted a variety of plants to enrich garden variety of crops and educational experience.
- Rerouted and directed a sprinkler system to ensure the plants would properly receive the water that they needed.
- Leveled land and soil so that new beds could take shape.
- Groomed the surrounding area to excite people as they approached the garden.



OUTPUTS

- The ASB group was successful at creating new planting beds for The Green Heart Project.
- Overall the group served the community by putting forth over 30 community service hours over the course of 4 days with anywhere from 10-12 cadet volunteers.
- The work we were able to accomplish in 4 days would have taken The Green Heart staff at least 4 weeks. Therefore, allowing the children to have the availability to enjoy the gardens benefits and rewards sooner.
- The Citadel cadets had the ability to share the mission of The Green Heart Project, by working together to educate the youth and foster a healthy community.
- The Citadel cadets gained an understanding and appreciation of the value that is generated from educational centers for the youth, and how the small acts of kindness can create big waves of change.



IMPACTS

- The Green Heart Project's farm-to-school programs utilize urban farms as vehicles for teaching students the lessons of respect, teamwork, accountability and entrepreneurship as they work alongside volunteers in the gardens.
- The Green Heart Project works to bring food and education to the Title-1 public school's that are in a labeled food desert.
- The Citadel was able to create a major impact with The Green Heart Project by building raised beds and providing the opportunity for an educational program.



CONCLUSION

- Change is measurable through physical acts such as completion of a task, but can also be measured in the ability to influence others. The Green Heart Project will continue to influence young minds to foster a sense community, and with that sustainable and healthy living is born.
- How The Citadel can continue to get involved is by reaching out and volunteering at local schools in their STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) programs. Afterschool care field trips are a big part of The Green Heart Project's audience and extra eyes, hands, and smiles can always be useful tools.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

