

## Valley United Way Community Garden Project

Background: The Valley United Way (VUW) has funding for a project to improve community gardening and to encourage home-grown foods. In the past, the project has supplied funding to individuals interested in backyard/container gardening. This year, the VUW has enlisted other community partners including Griffin Hospital, Ansonia Nature Center, TEAM, MyCityKitchen and Massaro Community Farm to find a way to reach more individuals in targeted neighborhoods. The project is also aiming to provide more ongoing support to community gardeners.

Project: VUW is seeking new or existing Master Gardeners to come to community garden sites in Ansonia and Derby (the Lower Naugatuck Valley) to provide guidance and instruction to neighbors on planting & maintaining garden plots, primarily geared towards vegetable, herbs and fruits. Some participants may have some basic gardening knowledge. However, VUW is also enlisting additional support and participation of nearby businesses so guidance and instruction should begin with basics such as choosing plants, companion planting, knowing how much/how little to water, organic pest management to when to harvest.

VUW is seeking Master Gardeners to come to 4 identified sites (Griffin Hospital and Irving Elementary School in Derby; Gattison Park and Pine Lot Park in Ansonia) at least once monthly on a scheduled day/time for approximately 2 hours each day to provide guidance/instruction as described above to participating community members. Dates and times will be flexible and set based on largest possibility of community engagement. Project will launch in May 2017 and run until October 2017 (or as long as garden's last). Tools will be provided.

Those interested can contact Caty Poole at Massaro Community Farm ([215 694 5549](tel:2156945549)) or Susan Meek at Valley United Way at ([203 926-9478](tel:2039269478)).