



## GARDEN NEWSLETTER

Issue 2      October 2010

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**Thank you** – for all of your support this summer for the Green & Gold garden and the Tubahumurize women’s group.

Because of your donations for the garden produce we exceeded last year’s total. See the update below for the full details of the funds raised, and the section on **Tubahumurize** for a description of how the money is being used in Rwanda.

**Financial update** - we are very happy to report that this season the Green and Gold garden raised a total of **\$21,587.00** for the **Tubahumurize Association**, in Rwanda.

Tubahumurize uses the funds from the Green & Gold garden to provide trauma counselling, health education, micro-credit loans and vocational training. Most of the beneficiaries are survivors of genocide, domestic violence or sexual assault, and many are single parents or orphans of the genocide. About a third of the women are HIV-positive.

An additional **\$3,175.00** was raised from sales of handicrafts (jewelry, cards and quilts) made by women supported by the Tubahumurize micro-credit and sewing programs. Through our volunteer sales of the handicrafts, 100% of the money goes back to the women artisans.



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**Garden update** – This was the second year of operation for the Green & Gold garden. We had many new volunteers and their help made it possible to plant and harvest a larger garden crop. You may have noticed that we also had more varieties of vegetables, herbs and flowers this year.

It wasn't the best summer for gardening weather-wise (too much rain – in contrast to last year's drought - and too little sun). We lost some of the vegetables as a result (peas & beets were flooded; corn & tomatoes didn't ripen). But, the salad greens, chard, kale, leeks, onions, beans, herbs and potatoes were wonderful. And when the flowers bloomed - especially the sunflowers - the garden was a beautiful place to be.

We'll be noting our crop successes and failures as we plan for next year's garden over the winter months.

Thanks to all of you who told friends and colleagues about the garden. We now have over 500 people on the garden e-mail list.

**Special thanks** - to the following individuals & companies for their generous donation of seeds, plants and produce for the 2010 garden:

- **Hole's Greenhouses & Gardens**
- **Livingston Seed Company** (& many thanks to **Marnie Main** for linking us with this wonderful opportunity!)
- **Mr. Fothergill's**
- **20/20 Seed Labs Inc.**
- **D. & L. Benedict**
- **John & Shirley Bennett**
- **G. & S. Botar**
- **D. Weimer**

**Volunteer update** – About 70 volunteers helped out at the garden this summer. Some (about 20 of us) were garden regulars who came out two to three times per week from planting through to the final harvest. Other volunteers helped out on

occasion as they were able. Altogether, well over 3,000 volunteer hours were spent at the garden.



**Report from Tubahumurize** - In early September, Tubahumurize provided a detailed report on activities funded by last year's donations. It was very exciting for us to see how the garden has supported the important work the women of Tubahumurize have taken on. A highlight was the year-long sewing and embroidery training program, which graduated its first class in June. In addition to practical vocation skills, the program provided individual counselling and education with lessons in art, English as a second language, choir, women's reproductive health, first aid, how to obtain and manage a micro-credit loan, hygiene, nutrition, human rights, education of girls, and why to vote.

Six of the sewing program graduates have formed a cooperative, and are using a renovated garage on Tubahumurize grounds. They make clothing, school uniforms and quilts. Twenty (!) new students are registered to take the program this year!!

We were also excited to receive pictures of the garden the students planted to supplement their diet. It was very moving to hear testimonies from these students, who are living in poverty and have had no opportunity to get an education. For many students the highlight of the program was being able to count on a lunch time meal.



***The first graduates of the sewing program, holding their diplomas, with their families, Tubahumurize staff & volunteers***

Another major area supported by the garden funds was the expansion of the trauma counselling program – over 120 women, in 5 communities (4 previously had no access to such services) have benefitted from the group programs and support.

On receipt and review of the Tubahumurize financial report, the School of Public Health arranged a wire transfer of \$9,500.00 to Tubahumurize in early September. This was half of the funds raised at that point in time; the remaining funds will be sent in March 2011.



***The lunch program at Tubahumurize***



***Recycled paper necklaces handmade by the women of Tubahumurize***

## **A Message from the Director of Tubahumurize**

**Jeanne Mwiliriza, Director, Association Tubahumurize, Kigali, Rwanda writes -**

*Thank you very much for your constant help. The association is still going well even though the women still have so many problems. There is a person who gave us a gift of 6 sewing machines and we gave them to the students who have graduated. They have now started a group which works like cooperative, they are the ones who do the beautiful quilts that you saw, but they also do tailoring for the community around here. They have a room here at the association and that is where they do their work.*

*We have 20 new students for the sewing course. They started on 09/01/2010. We are very grateful that you have raised money to help us, we needed it badly because we were running out of money.*

*Thank you so much indeed. Greeting to everybody and tell them that we are very grateful for their help.*

## **How you can continue to help Tubahumurize over the winter -**

Think of handicrafts from Tubahumurize for gifts. We still have handmade necklaces, earrings and cards from the Tubahumurize project in Rwanda, and a few quilts as well.

Students from the School of Public Health will be organizing the sale of these before Xmas. Once the sale times have been set they will be posted on our web site at: [http://bit.ly/greenandgold\\_garden](http://bit.ly/greenandgold_garden).

**Consider a donation to Tubahumurize as a Christmas gift** - For the person who has everything a meaningful gift might be a donation to Tubahumurize. You will receive a tax receipt from the University of Alberta, and a handmade card recognizing your donation will be sent to the recipient of your gift.

Please make donation cheques **payable to the University of Alberta** and send them to:

Dr. Sarah Bowen  
School of Public Health  
University of Alberta  
3021 RTF Building  
8308-114 St  
Edmonton, AB Canada T6G 2V2

**Garden Plans for 2011** - Yes, we do plan to operate the garden again next summer. Planning meetings will be held over the winter. Those who would like to commit to helping organize the garden are welcome to join us in planning for the 2011 season. Please e-mail us if you are interested in volunteering with the garden next summer.



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**Change in contact information** - To streamline communications, the Green and Gold garden has a new e-mail address: [green&gold@sph.ualberta.ca](mailto:green&gold@sph.ualberta.ca)

& our new (abbreviated) web site address is: [http://bit.ly/greenandgold\\_garden](http://bit.ly/greenandgold_garden)