

PAR support for local community hunger relief may be even more important than ever

By Carol Ledbetter
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Plant A Row for the Hungry

The American public has responded to calls for aid for the tragic tsunami disaster with open hearts and unprecedented donations. In fact, so much support has been diverted to disaster relief that the non-profit community fears support for local programs may be impacted.

Building on the community base that PAR represents, we are pleased to announce a program theme for the 2005 Plant A Row for the Hungry (PAR) season: "Communities Harvesting Hope." Most local food banks depend on charitable donations

to help provide food and services to Americans who suffer from hunger or the daily threat of hunger. By donating produce directly to the food banks, PAR gardeners help their local organizations stretch already meager resources.

This year we are inviting PAR participants across the country to come together as a recognized local committee under the PAR program and present a unified PAR image throughout the country. A number of campaigns have already organized as a group for recognition, such as the Northwest Oregon Volunteer Committee, the Greater Kansas City Volunteer Committee and the Franklin Township Volunteer

Committee of Plant a Row, to name just a few.

There is no cost to be recognized as an official PAR committee. A simple license agreement to allow you the use of PAR and campaign logos is all we ask in return for the GWA Foundation's support through free row markers, committee assistance, marketing brochures and volunteer referrals generated by the national toll-free telephone line.

Within the next two weeks, new marketing brochures that incorporate the "Communities Harvesting Hope" theme will be available to PAR committees for distribution to gardeners in each community. We will also have small row markers, donor

receipts and a limited supply of giant row markers to be placed in PAR gardens. Please contact me as soon as possible to officially "register" your program under the national Plant A Row for the Hungry umbrella.

Thank you for your participation in the PAR program. We look forward to working with you in 2005 to assist the needy people in your community.

Editor's note: To find out more about the Grant County Plant-A-Row for the Hungry Program contact Sheri Ann Richerson, Region III PAR Representative at SheriAnnRicherson@exoticgardening.com or by calling 765-664-6916.

