



## Meeting a Need in Local Communities

The Dodge County GTN team completed their third year of growing and donating fresh produce to individuals and families living with limited resources in Fremont. Lisa O'Connell, an Extension Master Gardener Volunteer in the community, helps coordinate volunteers and actively seeks support from local partners.

Lisa shared, "The gardens have made a huge impact in the Fremont community. 2021 [was] an awesome season, as we provided produce to families who can't afford healthy and fresh produce."

Important aspects of this three-year project include raised beds, over 2,600 pounds of fresh produce donated to 1,300 individuals, volunteer engagement, nutrition education and food demonstrations. Additionally, the support of local community partners is key to the project's continued success.

The raised beds improve access and inclusivity for all who wish to be involved, including young adults with disabilities who find therapeutic and skill-building benefits through volunteering with this project.

Looking to the future, Dodge County GTN hopes to recruit additional youth volunteers, increase produce rescue efforts, explore new partnerships and expand education opportunities.



**"The gardens have made a huge impact in the Fremont community. 2021 has been an awesome season, as we provided produce to families who can't afford healthy and fresh produce. We have donated to new places that were grateful for the fresh produce. Along with the produce, we provide education and healthy recipes."**

-Lisa O'Connell, Dodge County EMGV