

Volunteers Build New Reading Pagoda at Community Garden



Over twenty-five volunteers gathered on July 29th to build a reading pagoda at the new Woonsocket Community Garden, Grow Up!. The event was part of Koch Eye Care's community service volunteer day, coordinated by Family Resources Community Action's Youth Employment Program. "It was a challenge to create a project that could be done in one day. We wanted the participants from Koch Eye Care, the FRCA Youth Construction Project and other community volunteers to be able to see the finished product," said Mark Foley, FRCA Youth Programs Manager. Volunteers broke ground at 10 am and worked through until completed at 2:30 pm.

Koch Eye Care began the volunteer program seven years ago in honor of Dr. Peter Koch, founder of Koch Eye Care. "He was an extremely generous person and was very committed to the community," noted Debbie Brever, a Koch Eye Care employee volunteer who has been with Koch for 14 years. "We want to give back to the community just like he did." For Brever, a Woonsocket resident, helping the community is personal. "I love this community. It is good to give back to the city," she said.

Summer Youth Construction Project participant Allen Nembhard, age 16, has been involved with the Community Garden since it began in May, helping to build twenty of the raised beds. "Ever since I was a kid, I have loved working hard. When I'm building something, I get to see it every day, the progress," he said. "I'm glad to see lots of volunteers here helping out the community."

Organizers hope the project will encourage residents to take out a library book at the Harris Library, directly adjacent to the Community Garden and new reading pagoda, and to get involved with the garden. For more information about Grow Up!, contact Mark Foley at 235-6011.