



Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago

Press Release

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MWRD partners with JLM Abundant Life Community Center on garden project



Vice President Barbara McGowan works with students during the JLM Abundant Life Community Center Camp.

JLM Abundant Life Community Center executive director Rev. Johnny L. Miller recently reached out to Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) Vice President Barbara McGowan to see if the agency could partner to provide resources to help educate the community through its Going Green Agriculture Program.

The Center, located at 2622 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, was in need of equipment to prepare gardens that would help beautify and feed the community. This is where the MWRD stepped in - by loaning tools and staff expertise. "We are grateful for the support we received from Vice President McGowan and all of the MWRD

staff," said Rev. Miller. "We couldn't have completed this project without their assistance."

The goal of the Center's Agriculture Program is to educate the community about the country and state's natural and cultural resources and how to conserve those resources for future generations. To meet its mission of caring for the land and serving people, program participants learn how to manage an urban garden and the care needed to grow fresh produce for consumption.

Besides loaning gardening tools for the day, the MWRD delivered 6 cubic yards of free compost, rain barrels (*continued*)

MWRD partners with JLM Abundant Life Community Center *(cont.)*



A visitor to the JLM Abundant Life Community Center holds an oak sapling delivered by MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan as Rev. Johnny L. Miller, executive director, looks on.

and 50 oak saplings. The saplings are a part of the MWRD's Restore the Canopy program and will help shade the garden in future years. Rain barrels will help capture stormwater for later use. The MWRD also provided refreshments for the children participating in the center's day camp.

"We are always happy to help out community organizations when their mission matches that of the District's," said Vice President McGowan.

After teaching the students about conserving water and giving trees to members of the senior citizens group, the Vice President pulled weeds with the students to prepare the planting beds in the nearby garden. "I love working with soil, so I hope the students have a better understanding about how important the MWRD's compost is to the circle of life," said Vice President McGowan. "We also had a great time talking about the role of green infrastructure and how trees, rain barrels and rain gardens help their agriculture program."

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In the photos: MWRD Vice President Barbara McGowan pulls weeds from one of the planter beds.

Recovering Resources, Transforming Water

Established in 1889, the MWRD (www.mwr.org) is an award winning, special purpose government agency responsible for used water treatment and stormwater management in Cook County, Illinois.