



Accessible, Effective, Local Philanthropy

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Community Foundation Plants Seeds in Edible Classroom

The Community Foundation for Carver County has made an investment in a unique idea that sprouted in Waconia School District 110. The Edible Classroom, located at Clearwater Middle School in Waconia, is an innovative, hands-on learning experience for the students.

“We are always looking for ways to improve our teaching methods and the Edible Classroom is a seed to table type of teaching opportunity,” said Waconia Superintendent, Dr. Nancy Rajanen.

“We wanted to be able to preserve the farming history and culture that really is the basis of this whole area. Being able to teach kids those kinds of things such as where our food comes from really made sense. It's right next to the school and it's a neat way to do lessons,” said Leah Pierce, school counselor and Edible Classroom coordinator.

The Community Foundation for Carver County realized the potential impact that the Edible Classroom could have on students and made a \$500 grant towards the project through the Livable Communities Fund.

“We are all about building community,” said John Roebke, Waconia resident and board member. “This project represents what the Foundation means by ‘Livable Communities’. The Edible Classroom gives many children opportunities that they would not normally find or have elsewhere.”

But the Edible Classroom isn't just for kids. There is also a group of community volunteers who help tend to the garden.

“Kids learn how to grow things, they learn how to eat better, they're getting math and science through this project. Plus, parents and community members are connecting with each other and the students while working in the garden. What an incredible opportunity to create connections,” said Bob Roepke who is the Foundation chair.

To learn more about The Community Foundation for Carver County, please check out their website at www.carvercountyfoundation.org or contact Paul David (612) 518-9119 or pdavid@carvercountyfoundation.org.