

Children's Program Committee (CPC) Annual Report 2016 -17

Committee Chairs: Rosanna Innes and Janet Sheppard

Committee Members are: Jackie Johnson, Jackie Davis, Carol Lee, Cindy Dixon, Sonya Nagle, Joyce Busch, Jeanne Moroczko, Claudia DeFino, Nancy Nicosia, Trish Verbeyst, Jennifer Saltman, Cindy Dixon. In addition MGs, other committee members include Isles staff members, Cat Lowther, and Christina Heimann, along with community friends, Judith Lockard, Jeanne Gullo. In September 2017, Joyce Bush, Jackie Davis and Carol Lee stepped away from active hours. Meg Rich, Bonnie Ferriolo. Wendy Ludium, Jacqueline Spadaccini, Kathryn Murtaugh, Stephanie Anatale, Lynn Harwood and Stephanie Buller joined the group and became active members.

Committee Description/Purpose: To present horticultural information to the children of Mercer County within the guidelines of the RMG of MC programs and in partnership with other groups. Partnerships are key to CPC activities, and in them, the MG of MC works with: Public libraries in Mercer County, Public schools (i.e., 4 Trenton elementary schools, along with Mercer Elementary Schools (MES), Mercer County's special services school), Isles, Mercer County 4-H, the Trent House, HomeFront and Scout organizations.

Committee Goals for 2017:

1. To act as a resource for MGs and the community who work with children in school gardens.
2. To provide children's garden storybooks for Trenton schools
3. Provide contact hours for outreach events for Barbara Bromley's use in State reporting.

Accomplishments in 2017:

1. The Children's Program Committee (CPC) promoted our work in MGofMC newsletter articles.
2. The CPC held meetings on the 4rd Wednesday of the month, from 2-3pm at Extension Office.
3. CPC members led an Arbor Day program at an assisted senior living center with children from a neighboring school.
4. MGs worked with Special Needs children and teachers at the Mercer County Special Services Elementary School (MES).
5. MG CPC members planted bulbs at the Boys and Girls Club in Trenton.
6. CPC scheduled visits to county libraries to participate in the Library Summer Reading program . In 2017, we changed the dates from July to May (to align with Arbor Day) to avoid a date conflict with the Trent House Program. Participation suffered with this change. In our summer reading program will revert to July in 2018.
7. A significant area of accomplishment for the Children's Program Committee (CPC) is the ongoing activity with teachers and students in elementary schools in Mercer County.

Princeton, Hopewell, West Windsor, Pennington have at least one school where MG(s) volunteer (or work for pay) in these gardens.

Additionally MG CPC members partnered with Isles, Food Corps Volunteers Cat Lowther and Maddy

Tannous at five schools in Trenton and MC Special Services. There are 20 MGs working with children at these schools. In all over 250 contact hours during the Fall 2017 semester were recorded.

The school program had consistent support from several Master Gardeners:

1. Grant Elementary: Jackie Johnson, Claudia Defino, Jackie Davis,(prior to Fall 17) Stephanie Anatale (4)
2. Washington Elementary : Rosanna Innes, Wendy Ludlum Meg Rich, Jennifer Saltman, Cindy Dixon , Jacqueline Spadaccini, Carol Lee (prior to Fall 17) (7)
3. PJ Hill (aka Paul Robeson): Joyce Busch, Jeanne Mroczko and Bonnie Ferriolo (3)
4. Gregory: Sonya Nagle, Janet Sheppard, Stephanie Buller (3)
5. Columbus (prior to Fall 2017)
6. Mercer Special Services Elementary School (MES): Lynn Harwood, Janet Sheppard (2)

The activities of MG volunteers are guided by

Spring & Fall Gardening Plans - outside/inside garden lessons and activities

Winter I FoodCorps Program - inside healthy eating lessons and tastings

Winter II Reading Program: 4 Children's Garden Books presented with a garden lesson, at each of the participating schools listed above. Books included *Stone Soup*, *Sophie's Squash*, *Tops and Bottoms* and *First Peas*.

In addition, Nancy Nicosia supported Isles/FoodCorps (Christina Hermann's) Wellness program, which focuses on growing vegetables and healthy eating. (1)

7. To further their knowledge, MG CPC members who work with children met to share information and discuss challenges and successes in their work at area schools.

CPC Plans for 2018

1. To continue to act as a resource for MGs and others in the community who work with children in school gardens , and to establish a consistent set of garden activities for all volunteers.
2. To enhance the school gardens with herbs and plants for pollinators
3. To continue the Summer Library program
4. To comply with school security requirements, where applicable

CPC Agenda: January through June 2018

January	Annual Report and Budget; Winter I FoodCorp Curriculum Support
February	Winter II Stories - lessons and supplies
March	How to meet needs of the garden; Spring Garden Plan
April	Sharing Best Practices school garden visit
May	Planning to celebrate in the garden
June	Evaluating the program

2016 - 2017 CPC CONTACT HOURS

	<i>Librarians/ teachers</i>	<i>Parents</i>	<i>Children</i>	<i>Master Gardeners</i>	<i># of Hours</i>	<i>Contact hours</i>
<i>Summer programs</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>30</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>School gardens</i>	<i>13</i>		<i>240</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>475</i>
<i>Winter Stories</i>	<i>13</i>		<i>240</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>340</i>