



STAFF REPORT

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING OF NOVEMBER 12, 2013

To: Town Council

From: Town Manager

Subject: Request for Town Mini-Grant First United Methodist Church of Loomis

Date: November 4, 2013

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize a mini-grant in the amount of \$300 to the First United Methodist Church of Loomis for establishment of a "Because We Can" Garden to Feed the Hungry of Placer County.

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND:

A request has been submitted to the Town by the First United Methodist Church of Loomis to issue a mini-grant in the amount of \$300 to help establish a "Because We Can" Garden to Feed the Hungry of Placer County (See attached request). The \$300 would be used to purchase lumber, soil, soil amendments, fencing (to keep the deer away) and plants/seedlings for the garden. The First United Methodist Church of Loomis will be partnering with the Placer County Food Bank and the Sierra College Sustainable Agriculture Club in the garden's development.

Once established, it is expected that the garden could produce nearly 3,500 pounds of food annually. This amount will be a considerable aid in addressing the growing number of families who need food assistance.

CEQA :

The proposed action is exempt from CEQA.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

The \$300 mini-grant will come from miscellaneous funds allocated under Council Donations and Awards in the adopted budget.

201 Snowy River Court
Roseville, CA 95747
October 31, 2013

Mr. Rick Angelocci
Town Manager
Town of Loomis

Dear Mr. Angelocci:

Thank you very much for your interest in the First United Methodist Church of Loomis' new project--the establishment of our "Because We Can" Garden to Feed the Hungry of Placer County.

Our approximately 10-acre campus has an available plot—about 2500-2700 square feet—that we plan to devote to raised beds for planting produce. In this much space, we expect to be able to harvest nearly 3500 pounds of food annually. This amount will be a considerable aid in addressing the growing number of families who need food assistance.

Really good news for the project is that we are partnering with the Placer County Food Bank and the Sierra College Sustainable Agriculture Club in the garden's development. The Food Bank will help with planning and harvest assistance as well as food distribution. The Agriculture Club is going to lead the design effort, help determine the crop rotation schedule, and provide volunteer labor for a variety of tasks. Management of the project will be in the hands of a leadership team made up of members of the church, led by Mr. Bob Mion.

As for funding support needed for this project, we are anticipating that several members of the congregation will make monetary contributions, to what extent, we do not yet know. Among the items we will need to in our effort to meet the needs of the hungry are lumber, soil, soil amendments, fencing (to keep the deer away) and plants/seedlings. Our first priority is to get the lumber for 12 4x12 raised beds. In that regard, our funding request for the Town of Loomis is \$300; that amount would help us get started.

Besides the support from members of the congregation, we are also making inquiries with Whole Foods Market and other area cities. As a former grant writer for a non-profit organization, I am also researching other potential supporters.

If you have questions about this request, you may contact Mr. Mion at robertmion@hotmail.com or 916/778-8432 or me at chitma@surewest.net or 916/773-3259.

Sincerely,

Mary Ann Chittick