Overview:

The WSEC Intergenerational Garden was established in 2012 as a collaborative effort of the Chelsea Senior Center and the Chelsea School District. Its mission is to:

1) teach children the joys and benefits of gardening,
2) afford a manageable gardening experience for seniors, and
3) help bridge the intergenerational gap between the two age groups.

The garden is located on School District property, immediately adjacent to the Senior Center and the Early Childhood Center. The Early Childhood Center is home to the Chelsea Preschool and Great Start Readiness Programs during the school year and Camp Gabika (day camp) during the summer months. The Chelsea Children’s Cooperative Preschool is located in an adjacent building.

The garden is an 85’ x 85’ fenced parcel that includes a hoop house (24’ x 36’). The hoop house has several raised beds and the garden has a seasonal water supply on site.

Day to day Garden management is provided by Jim and Mary Randolph, Senior Center members and volunteers, and Trinh Pifer, Senior Center Executive Director. Work sessions are scheduled throughout the growing season for planting, weeding, harvesting, and general maintenance activities. An e-mail group of over 70 volunteers is used to promote work sessions and disseminate general garden news.

Job Description:

A summer intern is sought for the Intergenerational Garden for 2016 to:

- Recruit and coordinate volunteers,
- Develop innovative ideas for the garden and its related programs,
- Help maintain the garden and hoop house during the summer.

The intern will work directly with Jim and Mary Randolph and Trinh Pifer to establish clear goals and expectations for the season. At the start of the season, the hired intern would meet with the project team and key volunteers to kick off the season. This meeting will provide historical context for the intern and also help generate some new ideas for programming. In May, meetings with community partners will establish a schedule for summer programs, and planting/harvesting/cleaning days. From June-August, the intern’s time would be spent maintaining the garden, coordinating volunteers, and working with community partners to provide meaningful intergenerational programs.

An overarching goal is to develop a better organizational plan for managing the garden in future years.

The intern will be a temporary employee of the Chelsea Senior Center. A stipend of $2,000-$3,000 will be provided. Hours are flexible, but need to support programs related to the garden. Desired qualifications include experience with organic gardening practices and ability to coordinate volunteers. Interested applicants should submit a resume and cover letter by Friday, March 18, to Trinh Pifer at tpifer@chelseaseniors.org or to:

Attn: Trinh Pifer
Chelsea Senior Center
512 Washington Street
Chelsea, MI 48118