

**From:** Heather Hymes <heatherh@allenneighborhoodcenter.org>  
**Subject:** Allen Neighborhood Center Garden House  
**Date:** January 5, 2010 2:42:01 PM GMT-05:00  
**To:** duckmarc@msu.edu  
1 Attachment, 507 KB

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January 5, 2010

Marcus Duck  
240D Plant and Soil Sciences  
Michigan State University  
E. Lansing, MI 48824

Dear Marcus Duck,

Thank you for your generous offer to help distribute the enclosed flyers to students that may be interested in interning or volunteering at the Hunter Park Community GardenHouse. A project of Allen Neighborhood Center, the GardenHouse (a 95' X 35' year-round, heated, Conley greenhouse) serves as a hub for gardening education on Lansing's Eastside. We offer a range of programs, including the following:

- the ***Urban Gardener Certificate Course***, developed in partnership with the Ingham County Master Gardener, and designed to teach neighbors how to grow food in the clay soil and shady lots of the Eastside;
- ***Garden-in-a-Box***, a manageable introduction to gardening, which involves 11-17 year old members of our Youth Service Corps building and distributing 2'X2' cedar boxes filled with soil, fertilizer, plants, and offering monthly visits to box holders (people with limited gardening skill, mobility, income) to provide tending and harvesting advice;
- A year round **CSA** (community supported agriculture) project;
- Production of salad greens and spinach for a limited wholesale operation;
- A rich array of **workshops** each month, including Planning Your Gardening Year, Composting, Companion Planting, Herb and Flower Gardens, Seed Starting, Sustainable Landscaping, Edible Ornamentals, etc.
- **GardenHouse Book Club** and **GardenHouse First Friday Film Group** – Opportunities for neighbors to meet to discuss food and gardening related books, or to view movies such as 'Fresh' or 'Food, Inc.', followed by facilitated discussions.

We are open every day and year-round, relying on a small staff, AmeriCorps VISTAs, neighbors, interns, and a robust corps of volunteers to maintain our raised beds of vegetables both inside and surrounding the greenhouse.

Attached is our volunteer flyer. I have also sent a packet to your office with copies of our volunteer recruitment flyer, as well as brochures describing the Hunter Park GardenHouse and the Eastside. Please know that we would be delighted to present to classes about our urban agriculture initiative and our efforts to address food security issues (via the GardenHouse as well as our Allen Street Farmers Market, Breadbasket Pantry, and yard gardening programs) while building community in this richly diverse quadrant of the Capital City.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call me at 517-999-3916 (direct dial) or email me

at [heatherh@alenneighborhoodcenter.org](mailto:heatherh@alenneighborhoodcenter.org). Thank you again, Marcus, for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Heather Hymes  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Allen Neighborhood Center

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Heather Hymes  
Volunteer Coordinator  
Assistant Market Manager  
Allen Neighborhood Center  
517-999-3919  
[heatherh@alenneighborhoodcenter.org](mailto:heatherh@alenneighborhoodcenter.org)

"Those who can, do. Those who can do more, volunteer." ~Author Unknown



[volunteer flyer.pub \(507 KB\)](#)

## Volunteers Needed!



Please consider volunteering at The Hunter Park Community GardenHouse, where neighbors on Lansing's Eastside meet to grow food, flowers, and community. GardenHouse programs are designed to strengthen access to whole, fresh foods for Eastside stakeholders. If interested, please contact Heather Hymes at 517-999-3916 or email [heatherh@allenneighborhoodcenter.org](mailto:heatherh@allenneighborhoodcenter.org).

*The Hunter Park Community GardenHouse is a project of Allen Neighborhood Center, a hub for neighborhood revitalization on Lansing's Eastside.*