OVERVIEW
The WSU Extension Master Gardener (MG) Program trains volunteers to empower people and communities to find research-based, innovative solutions that address current challenges. We answer societal questions and directly address inequities in communities by connecting with underrepresented populations and by engaging at the local level via shared passions like growing food and protecting our natural resources. As the first Master Gardener Program in the world, we continue our commitment to solving global problems by teaching research-based horticulture and environmental stewardship practices to build healthy and resilient communities that are knowledgeable, dynamic, responsive and resilient. Cultivating plants, people and communities in Washington since 1973, the MG Program has since been emulated across the U.S. and into other countries around the world.

STRENGTHS
■ 85,000 Master Gardeners world-wide empower communities to make decisions that address real world challenges.
■ WSU trained volunteers are committed to service in their communities and share university research and project findings through workshops, classes, field-days and demonstrations with more than 300,000 Washington state residents annually.
■ MG volunteers are localized, non-regulatory, next door neighbors who are uniquely positioned to address equity issues and to connect with under-served populations to empower individuals to make decisions that create healthy, sustainable communities.
■ The MG program is the only organization that offers free answers to individuals seeking unbiased, research-based, sustainable solutions to their yard and garden problems.
Help advance the mission of the WSU Extension MASTER GARDENER PROGRAM

* Cultivating plants, people, and communities since 1973! *

**VISION**

Highly recognized, diverse and fully supported, WSU Master Gardener volunteers are the go-to resource for communities seeking research-based, innovative solutions for their ever-changing horticulture and environmental stewardship needs. Volunteers use innovative, cutting edge approaches and technologies to connect in person and virtually with communities to ensure they have the knowledge and skills needed to address community challenges such as climate science, food security, clean water, and dangers from increasing wildfires.

**FUNDING PRIORITIES**

- Establish the first ever endowed faculty chair dedicated to the WSU Extension Master Gardener Program.
- Teach new and existing WSU Master Gardeners, create scholarly works, fact sheets and tools that support volunteer outreach.
- Create a strong science-based horticulture and environmental stewardship curriculum to address community challenges.
- Represent the program locally, statewide and nationally, internally and externally to create new collaborations that leverage program strengths.
- Conduct cutting edge research that will lead to leveraging program strengths and develop innovative solutions that address challenges like climate change.

**IMPACTS OF PHILANTHROPY**

- Donations help Master Gardener volunteer impact food insecurity across the state by bringing communities together and by teaching them how to grow their own food. Through these efforts, MG’s are able to donate about 60,000 pounds of fresh produce to local food banks per year.
- Donations allowed MG volunteers to impact pollinator health and habitat by teaching about the importance of pollinators to food security and plant biodiversity, by helping people create pollinator habitat, and by making sure residents know about the safe use of pesticides to support pollinator health.
- Donations support collaborations and partnership with organizations that do similar work to create fire-resistant neighborhoods, waterwise landscapes and support clean water initiatives.
- Donations teach volunteers to be first detectors of invasive species, how to report potential invasive species, and hone plant and insect diagnostics skills.

**BECOME A MASTER GARDENER**

To learn how to become a Master Gardener Volunteer, visit the website:
http://mastergardener.wsu.edu/program/volunteer/

**GET INVOLVED**

Alumni and donors are welcome to participate in meetings, focus groups, and celebrations. To learn more, contact:

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**SUPPORT THE MG PROGRAM**

Donate to the WSU Master Gardener Program Endowed Chair Fund, online at: foundation.wsu.edu/give