



## Garden Start-Up Program

### **Program Description**

Since ancient times, gardens have provided humans with a source of food, art, expression, and enjoyment. In recent years, the home garden has been losing its important place in our everyday life. In hopes of reviving interest in gardens, Simple Living Institute, Inc. ("Simple Living") is pleased to offer a Garden Start-Up as one of our **core programs** focused on education and sustainability.

The program is quite simple. A "host" (school, church, community center, park, or other public entity) simply sets aside a plot of land and grants permission for use to its school children, church members, community members, etc. Simple Living can then lead your group through the garden start-up steps, which begin with choosing a theme for the garden. Themes can include Fruits & Vegetables, Ornamental, Cacti, Florida Native Plants, anything the group would like!

### **Timeline**

The Garden Start-Up is accomplished with the Host group and Simple Living working together in **two educational sessions**, each one week apart:

- Week One: Site Preparation (measuring/mapping the site, weeding, and turning the soil)
- Week Two: Planting (plant installation, watering, and maintenance instruction)

Once the garden is in, the Host group maintains the Garden. Simple Living is available for support in the form of answering questions and recommending solutions to problems.

### **Cost**

Garden Start-Ups are performed for **free** by Simple Living as a public enrichment program. However, depending on the theme of the garden, some cost for plants and materials may be incurred by either the Host group or Simple Living, or both. This is best determined on a case by case basis. When adults make up the host group, it is generally easiest for each adult member to purchase one plant for the garden. When kids make up the host group, it is best to get a budget from the host, or allow Simple Living to gather seeds and plants for the garden.

### **Past Sites**

**Bithlo Community Center**, Kids' Gardening Program, Bithlo, FL

**Threshold Development Center**, Orlando, FL

**Frangus Elementary School**, in partnership with The Karma Project, Orlando, FL

**Lake Formosa Community Garden**, Orlando, FL

**Sunrise Elementary School**, Orlando, FL

### **Contact Information**

If you are interesting in coordinating a Garden Start-Up for your site, please contact us by email at [info@simplelivinginstitute.org](mailto:info@simplelivinginstitute.org), or by phone at 321-228-4310.