

## Community gardens built in Cloud, Dogwood Terrace, Holly Hills

From staff reports

There's nothing like learning to grow fresh produce and being able to have it to supplement a healthy diet.

Recently, the Greater Kingsport Alliance for Development, KHRA's nonprofit arm, was awarded three grants from the Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association to establish community gardens at Frank L. Cloud Apartments, Holly Hills Apartments and Dogwood Terrace.

The gardens are similar to those constructed last summer at Lee Apartments. There, 24 raised-bed gardens were built, thanks to a \$2,000 Tennessee Recreation and Parks Association grant and a \$500 gift from the Farm Bureau. In addition, the City of Kingsport donated compost to fill the raised beds, Lowe's donated some of the plants, and the United Way of Greater Kingsport provided volunteers to start the construction during a Day of Caring last June.

Master gardeners from Harvest of Hope Community Gardens, the UT Extension Service, and KHRA residents and staff worked to build the garden, and children from the neighborhood and Kingsport Parks and Recreation Summer Camp also pitched in to help.

The Lee Community Garden was a huge success, and the UT Extension Service and master gardeners held a canning class to teach residents how to preserve food harvested from the garden. Residents canned 34 pints of green beans last fall. Other vegetables grown in the garden included peppers, squash, cucumbers, radishes, okra, lettuce,



The new community garden at Cloud was recently completed and is ready for planting. New garden beds are being hauled to Dogwood Terrace by the red truck in the background. See more garden photos on pages 6 and 7 of this newsletter.

tomatoes, beets, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, brussel sprouts, and spinach.

KHRA hopes to replicate these efforts at the new community gardens at Cloud, Holly Hills and Dogwood Terrace. The community gardens have been constructed next to KHRA's offices in each of the developments. Residents are encouraged to get involved by helping to plant and maintain the gardens. Residents will also be needed to serve on garden committees.

All vegetables grown in the gardens

will benefit the residents who volunteer to help.

HUD has been impressed with the garden work, and has published a story on its website. For more information on how to get involved, please contact your property manager.

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