

Barclay Friends conversation 2.16.22

Present: Dave Raible (marketing & development), LeeAnn Riloff (grantwriting), John Cooley, Susan Hoskins

Problem: Residents are bored and lonely. Some staff may be food insecure. Want to have closer relationships in wider community.

Project: Raised Bed Gardens for residents and staff with West Chester Univ Green Team

The program worked well. 18 beds were built (8 WCUGT, 10 BF) and there are additional ones for residents. Many had not gardened before. Many residents enjoyed watching if not actively participating. The flowers beautified all corners of the campus. The program is now self-sustainable.

Challenges: There was an early conflict over building materials (plastic composite won) and some concerns about having visitors on campus.

It was a surprise to see how much excess produce was given to the local food bank. The BC chef is excited to be getting his own garden next summer. An additional benefit is increasing staff satisfaction and retention.

While they will not return for additional garden funding, there is a great need for a new community bus. They got a \$35K grant, which will cover about half of the cost for a 14 passenger accessible bus. They want to get residents out into the community more (culture, shopping, picnics, Philadelphia sites...). Barclay will finance this (reserves can not be used) if no grants are forthcoming.

Regarding DEI practices, the staff leadership has been reading and training through FSA and K-Corp. It is being considered for hiring and policy review as well as board consideration.

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