

SUSTAINABLE FOOD PAGES

Sustainable food initiatives in health systems and large institutions

Healthcare Highlight

Genesis Hammonds Lane Center Kicks off 2014 Garden with Planting Day Event

On May 21st, Genesis Hammonds Lane Center engaged their staff, residents and residents' family members in planting their new garden beds in the front of the facility and in the courtyard. Genesis is one of three nursing homes in the Baltimore City area that MD H2E is supporting in increasing healthy food access to their seniors, staff and surrounding community members, thanks to a USDA Community Food Projects Grant awarded through a partnership with Health Care Without Harm. Nursing home Administrator Karen Jenkins is enthusiastic: "We started last spring by planting blueberries, herbs and tomatoes in a few small garden beds," said Jenkins. "Then, late last summer, we began planning the launch of the more established garden beds."

This year, at the request of their staff and residents, they planted tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans, tomatoes, cucumbers, green beans, sweet potatoes and fig trees. The chefs added basil, parsley and other herbs to their menus. Last year, Chef Mark Lynch used the food from the garden in the residents' meals and won 1st place in a national Genesis Healthcare Culinary Competition



Chef Mark Lynch includes the vegetables and herbs from the garden in the residents' meals

with his "farm-to-table"

recipes using produce from their garden and farm stand, all while meeting the \$1.25/meal cost criteria for the dinner plate and dessert. Chef Mark explained "Growing food and supporting local farmers is one of the most important things we can do right now to keep our residents and communities healthy, and to take care of our planet and address our changing climate."

Next steps are to keep up the gardens and continue to engage more staff and residents in the garden committee. "By including our residents in the planning, tending, eating, and sharing from the garden, we are keeping them connected to their food sources and the community. Connectedness is an important aspect of maintaining good health that is often overlooked," Jenkins explained.



Genesis' garden committee, led by Administrator Karen Jenkins, engaged the staff, residents and residents' family, and MD H2E in helping with their planting day.

Trending Now:

The Humane Society of the United States: Advancing Market Opportunities for Humane and Sustainable Food Production. Read [HERE](#) about how HSUS can connect your facility with ranchers and farmers that share your values.

Chesapeake Food Leadership Council (CFLC):

The Chesapeake Foodshed Network (CFN) has hired [Christy Gabbard](#), President of Local Concepts LLC to coordinate development of the network. Welcome Christy!

We are working on a number of meet ups and educational opportunities for the CFLC to get back together. Please look for the next invitation from CFLCnews@gmail.com and be sure to register to receive the **Sustainable Food Blog Newsletter**. Contact [Gina Navarro](#)

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Engaging Opportunities

Buy Local Challenge July 19–27

Calling All Food Service Departments & Employees: Register for the Buy Local Challenge and your facility's name will be added to the Buy Local Home Page Banner – **FREE** for one Year!

Food Service Departments: **Register [HERE](#)**
Employees, Depts., Green Teams: **Register [HERE](#)**

Enter the 2014 photo contest and show how your facility is going the extra mile. "Take the Challenge to the EXTREME!" by submitting photo/s of your staff preparing local food to serve to staff, visitors and patients!

MD H2E wants to share your dedication to buying local! Remember, "You Can't BUY Happiness, but You Can BUY Local & That's Kind of the Same Thing,"
Robert Ungemach

Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future

We want to put you on the [Johns Hopkins Center for a Livable Future Map Project](#) and showcase the great work and purchasing efforts our hospitals are doing to support the local food movement.

If you haven't filled out the [Hospital Food Purchasing Survey](#) – there is still time! The information you provide will help those involved in the local food chain learn about existing opportunities to work directly with institutions as major players in changing the landscape of food and agriculture in Maryland and the greater Chesapeake region. Questions? Email [Louise Mitchell](#)



Events

Governor O'Malley **Announces** Local Menu for the 7th Annual Buy Local Cookout:

Earlier this year, Governor O'Malley invited teams of chefs and producers to submit original recipes that highlight the diversity of local products. Some 28 recipes were submitted; and 16 were selected.

Congratulations goes out to [Union Hospital of Cecil County](#), [Adventist Healthcare](#) and [Wide Net Project](#) as featured recipe champs!!

All (28) recipe submissions will be published in the *2014 Buy Local Cookout Recipes*, which will include wine pairing recommendations from the [Maryland Wineries Association](#). The cookbook will be free and available online when complete later next month.



Buy Local Challenge – July 19 – 27

The goal of the [Buy Local Challenge](#) is to raise awareness about the benefits of local farms and food so that Marylanders will become more familiar and more frequent consumers of fresh, local products. The [Buy Local Challenge](#) was created in 2006 by the [Southern Maryland Agricultural Development Commission](#) and has grown into a statewide initiative.

Article:

Pesticide Database Used in Study Linking Pesticide Use to Increased Autism Risk in California

A [new study published in Environmental Health Perspectives](#) indicated a 60% increased risk for Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) in children whose mothers lived, during pregnancy, within 1.5 km of an agricultural application of organophosphate pesticides. Data from the California pesticide use database was used in this study. In April, Maryland legislators passed a law to fund a voluntary pesticide use database in Maryland, although [Smart on Pesticides](#) encourages legislators to pass a law in 2015 requiring mandatory reporting by certified pesticide applicators. For more information, visit: [Smart on Pesticides](#).