

# **GARRISON CHILDREN'S EDUCATION FUND GRANT APPLICATION**

Date: 8/15/14

Name of Program/Project: Hudson Valley Seed, Garrison

Applicant's Name: Ava Bynum

Title and Affiliation: Executive Director

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Amount of Funding Requested: \$7,500

Start date: 9/15/14 Completion date: 6/22/14

## **SUMMARY:**

Hudson Valley Seed educates children in academics and wellness through curriculum-integrated lessons in school gardens. This grant would fund K-2 classes visiting the G.U.F.S. school garden once per week with a Hudson Valley Seed educator. Third grade classes would visit the garden bi-monthly and fourth grade would visit the garden once per month.

## **FULL PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

G.U.F.S. began its partnership with Hudson Valley Seed last year, laying the ground work for this year's proposed expanded program. The garden will continue to enhance learning because it has been shown repeatedly that students retain information more effectively for and following a test when they learn material in a hands-on environment. The garden will be a classroom for science, math, reading and more. As such, it will complement and reinforce classroom study. Students learning multiplication will count the number of carrots in a row and multiply it by the number of rows in the bed. Students studying parabolas will study low tunnels and will calculate the focal point and concentration of heat light

creates reflecting through plastic. Any subject, simple or complex, can be taught and reinforced in the garden.

One of Hudson Valley Seed's educators will be paired with G.U.F.S. to run each class's garden program. During each hour-long session of garden time, the HVS educator will teach a lesson that is aligned with what is being taught in the classroom. For example, when students are studying Early America, students will learn about corn, beans and squash in the garden. Students will write garden poems correlating to the poetry unit taught in class. Students will also be focusing weekly on writing, reading, recording observations and peer learning.

Hudson Valley Seed's garden program is important because it brings both experiential education and nutrition education into the weekly schedule of a public school classroom. Additionally, it takes pressure off of teachers and parents to execute programs. For a garden program to be sustainable, a third party organization needs to facilitate volunteer turn over, summer maintenance, and more.

Hudson Valley Seed's curricula is fully integrated into New York State's Common Core. Additionally, the order of our lessons is aligned to each teacher's scope and sequence for the year. When students have been learning a subject in their classrooms, having an opportunity to apply their knowledge and deepen it in an interactive outdoor setting has been shown to help them retain the information more effectively. Additionally, garden time provides opportunities to learn aspects of the common core that are harder to accomplish in the classroom. Some of these include scientific observation, peer learning, and self-guided learning.

The Philipstown community is full of gardeners and avid outdoors-people. Many of our garden volunteers are community members and many residents support the Hudson Valley Seed program. During last year's garden program, many parents shared that their children were returning from garden time each week eager to share their knowledge and plant their own gardens at home. Having this program at G.U.F.S. can help shape school culture and the culture of the Philipstown community by empowering children to be leaders and change agents. In the Hudson Valley Seed program, students also learn that they have a direct impact on the earth and that their actions have real, tangible results.

The success of the Hudson Valley Seed program is due to the fact that

it creates minimal-to-no extra work for teachers. The lessons are aligned to each teacher's scope and sequence to ensure that garden time reinforces classroom learning. This year we also hope to better engage parents in supporting garden time through volunteering or other forms of engagement.

This year Hudson Valley Seed is excited to begin working with Kindergarten, third and fourth grades. This will continue to create a school-wide excitement about fresh vegetables and whole foods. We also hope to work more closely with the chef-in-the-classroom project.

Garden time for the 2014-2015 school year will directly impact K-4 classes, teachers and families. Additionally, the program will benefit other grades as they begin to see more garden-related artwork in the hallways. Parents will receive newsletters each month to update them on garden time and share fun healthful recipes.

Ava Bynum, Hudson Valley Seed's Executive Director, will be responsible for all communications with G.C.E.F. and will be responsible for grant reporting. Nicole Porto will be the G.U.F.S. garden educator and she will communicate directly with teachers about garden time scheduling. She will run garden time each week. Susan Hereth, Hudson Valley Seed's Education Coordinator, will be responsible for all Hudson Valley Seed curricula and for working with teachers to make sure HVS's curricula is aligned to each teacher's scope and sequence.

This project will take place during the 2014-2015 school year and will build on last year's garden program. Our hope is that the program will continue to expand in the coming school years.

## **BUDGET:**

**Proposed Garden Budget 2014-2015 School Year for K-2 Program, (5 Classes)**

Item	Cost	Notes
Raised Bed Kits	\$322.00	
Compost and Top Soil	\$75.00	
Seeds/Seedlings	\$50.00	
Classroom Materials	\$1400.00	
Kindergarten Educator, (2 classes every other week)	\$1750.00	
First Grade Educator, (2 classes every other week)	\$1750.00	
Second Grade Educator, (1 class every week)	\$1312.00	
Third Grade Educator, (1 class every other week)	\$675.00	
Fourth Grade Educator, (2 classes, 1 class/month)	\$675.00	
Teacher meetings and Education Coordinator time.	\$405.00	
Administrative	\$800.00	8.68%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$9214.00</b>	

Hudson Valley Seed will secure additional funding to cover the programs outlined above. This will come from private donors and foundation grants.

### **TIMELINE:**

9/15/14 - 6/22/14

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

G.C.E.F. can learn more about Hudson Valley Seed's work at [www.hudsonvalleyseed.org](http://www.hudsonvalleyseed.org). On the homepage there is a video that will give you an inside look at garden time. Our most recently published annual report

can be found at <http://hudsonvalleyseed.org/annual-report-fy-13-14/>.