

The Backyard Harvest

Pullman, WA

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Introduction of BYH

Backyard Harvest is a non-profit organization that makes fresh, healthy produce available to low income individuals of the Palouse and surrounding area. A simple mistake of a mom growing too much lettuce in one backyard led to many donations to the local food bank. Working with volunteers, this mom was able to connect local farmers with food banks to reduce waste in the community and increase the amounts of fresh produce in needy households. BYH now gleans, gathers, and grows produce to help donate thousands of fresh produce each year.



Above, I am located inside the tiny greenhouse where our plant starts are housed and many of my hours were spent in the beginning of my internship.

Below is the outside of the greenhouse. BYH has an advantage over the rest of the members of the community in the garden as we can start growing plants earlier in the season.



Tomato plants at Lincoln Middle School in Pullman, WA. Two YMCA classes are taught each week here. To the Right are labels of the two types of tomatoes grown here: Mexican Midgets and Early Wonders.



Responsibilities Performed

Greenhouse and Community Garden Intern

- Manage 'Grow for the Greater Good' program (the self-growing aspect of BYH) at Koppel Community Gardens
 - Daily watering
 - Weeded
 - Pest Management
 - Maintenance
 - Supervised volunteers
 - Managed small greenhouses where the plant starts grew and eventually transplanted
- Assist teaching classes through the YMCA with Community Action Center
 - Three classes a week consisting of ages 6-7, 8-9, and 10-11
 - Weekly lessons covering various nutrients supplied to the body through fresh produce
 - Helped implement the start of an extensive program where gardens are being introduced to the Pullman schools for both teaching purposes and for providing fresh, local produce into school lunches
 - Helped teach lessons and practiced planting, pruning, watering, trellising, and maintaining tomatoes.
- Assist in planting at other various gardens across Moscow, ID and Albion, WA.
 - Helped prepare for planting
 - Weeded
 - Planted
 - Assisted in laying irrigation



The start of what will be beautiful, organic, heirloom tomatoes.



Tomato plant starts in the greenhouse.



Left:
Compost bin at Lincoln Middle School.

Right:
Preparing for a lesson in "Bug Hunting" with the 6-7 year olds.



Above is Koppel Community Garden

Summary

This particular internship was a wonderful experience for me. Not only did it help me realize what I want to focus on after I graduate, but it showed me the importance of a few things. This internship taught me the importance of teaching local agriculture to children at a young age, helped me realize the need of people in an area I have been living in for 4 years but never saw, and last but not least, taught me that all people deserve access to fresh, healthy food. I will be able to take both professional skills and practical skills that I learned this summer with me for years to come. This experience helped me grow both personally and professionally. Everyday was a learning day for me, no matter my "teacher's" age.

