

Mt. Diablo CARES Celebrates Teen Garden Corps Graduation

Mt. Diablo CARES held a celebration in the Bay Point Community Garden for the graduation of all 20 Teen Garden Corps participants on July 23, 2009. These high school students completed six weeks of skill development in the garden, learning how to work together, grow fruits and vegetables, and teach afterschool program children while having fun!

The graduates conducted tours of the garden for the many visitors, including Mt. Diablo USD administrators and staff, a representative from Contra Costa Supervisor Federal D. Glover, families and former Garden Corps graduates. This brings to 140 students who have completed the program over the past eight years, many of whom have gone on to become garden assistants and then leaders in the Mt. Diablo CARES Afterschool Program.



At the celebration, the teens shared their experiences in team building, working in the two-acre garden, trying new fruits and vegetables, learning how to cook and prepare the garden produce, following direction, and much more. A field trip to San Francisco to see murals at the mission there helped them create their own mural at the garden.

Mt. Diablo CARES Afterschool Program is a part of the Center for Collaborative Solutions' Healthy Behaviors Initiative, and hosts two Healthy Behaviors Learning Centers at Riverview Middle School and Holbrook Elementary School. Mt. Diablo CARES is a partnership of the Mt. Diablo Unified School District, Ambrose Recreation and Park District, and the City of Concord.



Tracy Shorter II shares peaches grown at the Mt. Diablo CARES Bay Point Garden with Dick Nicoll, Superintendent of Mt. Diablo USD and Katie Gaines, Mt. Diablo USD.