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**For Immediate Release:**
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**Edible Gardening Grows in Homewood Area***Phipps’ Homegrown program provides self-sufficiency for families*

**Pittsburgh, Pa.** — The Homegrown program, now in its third year at Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens, has installed over 30 raised bed vegetable gardens for families in Homewood since the program started with the help of mentorship and resources.

Originating in 2013, Phipps volunteers working with the Homegrown program install raised bed gardens for underserved families in Homewood, Pa. The program is dedicated to increasing community access to fresh produce, promoting healthier food choices and improving the overall health of families and children. Each Homegrown participant is committed to two years with the program. This includes installation of the vegetable garden, regular check-ins, gardening and cooking workshops and a group of professionally trained gardeners from Phipps constantly on call to help clients.

 In Homegrown’s first year, volunteers installed 10 raised bed vegetable gardens in Homewood homes. With a constant goal of growing their outreach, Homegrown volunteers installed 20 additional gardens in 2014. The new goal for 2015 is to double that amount, or install 60 self-sufficient gardens each year for the next three years, effectively helping 180 families grow their own produce.

Homegrown’s residential efforts in Homewood continue to grow with the help of the [Homewood-Brushton YMCA](http://www.ymcaofpittsburgh.org/locations/homewood-brushton-ymca/) and [Pittsburgh Job Corps Center](http://pittsburgh.jobcorps.gov/home.aspx). The Pittsburgh Job Corps Center is often very involved in the construction and installation of the raised garden beds. Woodworking students build and supply the garden beds to Homegrown free of charge. Currently, Phipps is operating Homegrown only in Homewood, but plans for expansion in the program are in the future.

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**About Phipps**: Founded in 1893, Phipps Conservatory and Botanical Gardens in Pittsburgh, Pa. is a green leader among public gardens with a mission to inspire and educate all with the beauty and importance of plants; to advance sustainability and promote human and environmental well-being through action and research; and to celebrate its historic glasshouse. Learn more: [phipps.conservatory.org](http://phipps.conservatory.org).

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