

Contribution Sprouts Growth of Urban Garden at Dolores Mission School

The William H. Hannon Foundation has made a \$12,000 contribution toward the expansion of the urban gardening program at Dolores Mission School in Boyle Heights. The contribution will fund enhancements to the garden, including a drought-friendly irrigation system, weather-proofing and adding shaded tables and seating for students and instructors. The garden is located in front of the school and is a resource to the local community, as parents and community members are invited to take home the harvest that Dolores Mission School students plant.

Dolores Mission School is surrounded by three housing projects for low income families, many earning just 10% of the median income in Los Angeles. The majority of students reside in housing projects, and of the 190 families enrolled at the school, 124 earn less than \$24,000 each year and 94% of students qualify for free or reduced price breakfast or lunch. Boyle Heights is classified as a food desert by the United States Department of Agriculture, having a high concentration of low income residents with limited access to healthy, whole foods.

“As a former elementary school teacher, I am especially impressed with the urban gardening program at Dolores Mission School. Not only are children being taught the science of gardening, they are learning how to collaborate and grow fresh fruits and vegetables that serve the entire community. This is a fabulous program,” said Kathleen Hannon Aikenhead, President of the William H. Hannon Foundation.