A note from Nurture’s Executive Director, Kathryn Guylay:

Happy New Year to all Nurture Volunteers! As a new year begins, I wanted to share with you something that I’m really excited about for 2010: all of the new “Nurture garden plots” that are going to be planted, tended and harvested. Now what do I mean by that? You’ll have to bear with my analogy which explains the way Nurture can grow. The way I see it, when I founded Nurture, I simply located a “community garden” where we (myself and the incredible Nurture founding board members) initially planted a small garden and took care of it until it blossomed (that would be the pilot program at the Northfield Township Food Pantry last winter/spring). Then new people (additional volunteers and agencies) came from all over to see what we grew and wanted us to grow more. As you know, when you grow a garden the worst thing you can do is to plot out too big of a garden and have it so wide spread that you can’t take care of it. But what you can do is find other farmers to take over additional plots of land (within the community garden) and grow similar crops there. These farmers have ownership over these plots and freedom to do what they desire with their crops. They might want to use different seeds and different methods, which is great (as long as the entire community garden is well-tended and produces good things). So this method -- cultivating new plots under the leadership of empowered farmers -- is the way Nurture is planning its growth in 2010. I’d like to enthusiastically applaud these farmers and tell you what their plots are:

- Anne Milling- the after school program at Family Focus in Evanston
- Elizabeth Thomas and Elizabeth Brennan- the after school program at Oak Terrace school in Highland Park
- Julia Goodhouse- the “crock pot initiative” with Campus Kitchens NU/Salvation Army in Evanston
- Juliette Britton and Elizabeth Thomas- the in school program at Oak Terrace school in Highland Park
- Juliette Britton and Elizabeth Thomas- the kids program at the Northfield Township Food Pantry
- Kim Treger- the adult program (Spring) at the Northfield Township Food Pantry
- Paige Carney and Michelle McKenna- the Grow Your Own Food program at St. Philips Church in Glenview
- Sarah Leone- the Parents class at Desde El Principio (Right from the Start) at Family Center in Highland Park
- Sarah Leone- the Prenatal class at Desde El Principio (Right from the Start) at Family Center in Highland Park
- Stacey Patillo- the teen mother program at Family Focus in Evanston

All of the programs above are with low income families/agencies. Oak Terrace, for instance, school has a 67% low income population.

I want to emphasize that our growth would not be possible without these wonderful farmers and support of additional volunteers like you! We trust you to take wonderful care of the crops, and we know that beautiful things will result! We are here to provide a little watering and advice as needed, and we can’t wait to cheer you on!

Thank you,

Kathryn Guylay
On behalf of the entire Board of Directors
~ A Note from the Fundraising Committee ~

We had another successful fundraising season with generous end-of-year giving. We would like to thank everyone that made a financial or equipment donation between Thanksgiving Day and New Year’s Day:

The Alexander Foundation (Karen McCormick)
Juliette Britton (her family did a “Tis the Season Season” drive to collect seasonings for Nurture classes)
Sheri and Rob Carsello
Deb Cogan
Laura Corcoran
Jane Dearborn
Roxy and Ryan Freel
Christopher and Connie Gillock
Alexander Guylay
Elena Guylay
Jeff and Kathryn Guylay
Terry and Wes Guylay
Kathy and Pat Halloran
Bob and Judy Kemp
Julie Kennedy
Joanna Lewis
Elizabeth Matlin
Anne and Jens Milling (Ford Harding Family Foundation)
Jessica McCarihan
Suzanne and Andy Mynard
Brooks Palmer
Stacey and Elsie Porter
Jessica Shimberg
Kim Treger

(We tried to catch everyone who brought rice cookers/ slow cookers to the 12/7 Volunteer Appreciation party; however, we may have missed some names. If we missed your donation – sorry!! we will be sending out another Thank You in next month’s letter. Please send a reminder email to Laura Bianchi if you donated equipment or funds and were not mentioned).

If you did not get a chance to donate in 2009, please consider doing so in early 2010. Donations in check form (payable to Nurture) can be mailed to Nurture, P.O. Box 160, Winnetka, IL 60093, or you can donate through PayPal by clicking this link http://www.nurtureyourfamily.org/id48.html. Remember, we make the very most of your donations!

Important 2010 Dates

Northfield Township Food Pantry (NTFP) Winter program
Classes start 1/12

Desde El Principio Spanish Classes. Held in Highland Park
Prenatal classes start 1/19

Parent education classes start 2/1

Oak Terrace School
Classes start 1/15

Northfield Township Food Pantry (NTFP) Spring program
Classes start 3/2

Grow Your Own Food
Class on 3/9

Please contact Kathryn Guylay if you’re interested in participating in any of the above.
**A Note from the Program Evaluation Committee:**

Have you visited the new tab on the Nurture website (the options on the left hand side of the homepage) called “Our Impact”? Please visit this page when you can. We have carefully included data from many of our recent programs showing the incredible impact that Nurture is having on the lives of its participants. We would like to extend a huge thank you to the following volunteers that helped tabulate the results of our programs:

Shayna Oshita-teen mother program  
Anne Milling- NTFP fall program  
Elizabeth Brennan-Infant Welfare Society Holiday program

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**Web site Developer:** Nurture is looking to overhaul the look of its website as well as the website of its sister organization, Healthy Kids Ideas Exchange. If you know anyone with technical skills that might be interested in helping us out -- to build their portfolio and help a wonderful cause-- please contact Kathryn Guylay at Kathryn@guylay.com. Thank you!

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**Save the Date! Mark your calendar!**

We have picked a date for Nurture’s annual Spring Benefit. **Saturday May 22, 7pm.** Please mark your calendars and look for more information from Kim Treger (the benefit Chair) in the coming days. We hope to involve all of you in what is going to be a fun and amazing celebration!

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**Nurture in the News**

_A Pioneer Press Story on the Oct. 10th Wine & Cheese Event!_

_http://www.nurtureyourfamily.org/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/pioneerpress121709.pdf_