






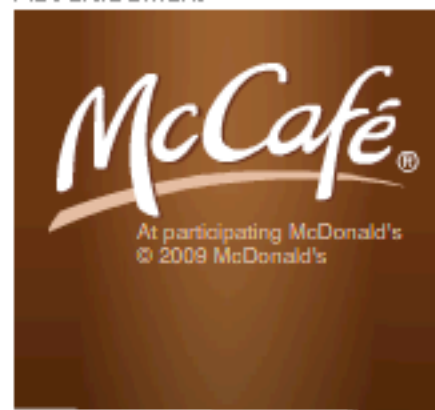
# Vegetable gardening promoted

By Elaine Trumpey • [etrumpey@enquirer.com](mailto:etrumpey@enquirer.com) • April 2, 2009

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Home vegetable gardens are popping up all over - even on the South Lawn of the first family's residence in Washington, D.C.

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Now, an organic garden center in Lebanon and a social-service agency in Springdale are partnering to take the idea of a home vegetable garden one step further.

Marvin's Organic Gardens on U.S. 42 in Lebanon and The Healing Center in Springdale have launched a program called the Giving Garden. Their goal: to teach families who might be struggling to put food on the table how to grow their own produce.

Those who participate will be encouraged to share their harvest with a food pantry so other families can benefit as well.

Marvin Duren and his son, Wes, have teamed up to share their knowledge of how to grow fresh, organic produce.

"It's safer for the families - and the planet," Wes Duren said.

The program kicks off with a class from 6 to 9 p.m. today at the social-service agency. Another class takes place there the following Thursday at the same time.

The garden store on U.S. 42 in Lebanon hosts classes from 2 to 5 p.m. Saturday and again on April 11.

Class members receive a free bag of organic fertilizer, seedlings and a yard of compost. They will need to stop by the garden store to pick up the compost, Duren said. It's enough to fill five wheelbarrows.

Judy Gillens, executive director of The Healing Center, an outreach of Vineyard Community Church, is happy to be participating in the gardening program. "It's a nice way to extend our nutrition and health education program," she said.