Did you know that nearly 16 percent of children living here in Ocean County live in poverty or suffer from poor nutrition? Due to the current economic depression many people are relying heavily on the aid of local food banks.

Georgian Court University has composed a plan to assist with this problem by creating and building a community vegetable garden. Not only will it create food for local food banks and charities but it will also demonstrate sustainable agricultural practices within the community and campus.

The motto of the community vegetable garden is “growing to give, giving to grow.” The main goal of the garden is to increase food production in our area, while also teaching water conservation techniques, ecological consciousness, and soil health. We hope to also use the creation and maintenance of the garden as the basis for a series of multimedia curricular materials for both K-16 and non-traditional educators to help support others in the creation of their own community gardens.

If you are at all interested helping us to create and maintain this garden or to create curricular materials, please ask. You don’t need to be an expert. We will teach what you need to know to work in this garden as well as to build your very own vegetable garden. Not only will working in the garden teach you sustainable gardening techniques, but it will also allow you to assist in community problem solving and alleviating the devastating problem of hunger in our area.

And don’t worry if you can’t make it to help out with the garden in person because the creation and maintenance of the garden will be documented in writing, photographs, and video for all to view. We also hope eventually to create an interactive option which can be found through our website, facebook, or email called “adopt a bed.”