

# GENERATIONS GATHER

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“Generations Gather,” a special program of VISTA Gardens, is funded by FOREVER FRIENDS Inc., a not-for-profit organization whose mission is rooted in the value of intergenerational relationships.

One of VISTA’s members, Lori Vella, often gathers “Little Villagers” and their families for activities at VISTA Gardens. These gatherings now include many generations, as middle, high school, or college students guide children and their parents from activity to activity throughout the gardens. They introduce them to VISTA gardeners who offer hands-on gardening activities.

Hunting through a bin of compost, children find a banana peel, the core of an apple, a well-squeezed lemon, the top from a strawberry, and skin of an onion. They learn about which food scraps families may bring to the gardens and how compost adds enrichment to the soil.

Children hear stories about growing food and flowers and taking care of bees and other wildlife, especially the many birds that frequent our gardens.

On a scavenger hunt, children find gardeners harvesting pieces of sugar cane and radishes to share.

They visit many gardens and gardeners as they gather cherry tomatoes, green or yellow beans, flower blossoms, a spring onion, and a sprig of rosemary from VISTA’s container herb garden.

And at every event, children experience working with the soil, planting seeds or transplanting seedlings, and enjoying the harvest.

“Why try to explain miracles to your children when you can just have them plant a garden?”

Robert Brault





JANUARY 2020

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Jennifer Casanova