



Fall/Winter  
2011

Inside this  
issue:

- Highland Community Vegetable Garden Winterization Project
- Highland Community Vegetable Garden Recognition Event
- College Green Bowl Grant
- Launching of "GreenRoots Leadership Development Program"

ReNU Niagara  
office  
Niagara University

Main Address  
PO Box 185  
Niagara Falls, NY  
14305

Phone: 716.205.0289  
Fax: 716.205.0288

Office Address:  
1117 Michigan Avenue  
Niagara Falls, NY  
14305

## Highland Community Vegetable Garden Beds get Winterized

### NU Students Prepare for Winter

With the end of harvest, students from Niagara University helped to prepare the Highland Community Vegetable Garden for the long winter months. Approximately 20 students from Dr. Levin's Environmental Ethics class took time out of their Saturdays to repair and winterize the garden beds using a variety of methods. In the spring time, the effectiveness of the winterization methods will be measured.

Students used common materials to winterize each bed in hopes to prepare the soil for spring planting. Straw, newspapers, weed block, and cover crops were all used in different combinations to determine which method of winterization is best. In the spring, these materials will be tilled into the soil to provide a natural and sustainable means of fertilization.



*Students take a well deserved break to relax in a winterized bed at the garden and enjoy the sun!*

A more sophisticated means of winterization was also applied to one garden bed with the construction of a hoop-house structure. Using wire mesh, plastic, and support beams, the structure sits perfectly atop the garden bed and is easily assembled and taken down. Early spring crops were planted in the garden bed underneath the hoop-house structure to start early growth.

Basic repairs to garden beds were also performed, including reinforcing sides, attaching brackets to corners, and hammering nails back into the beds. With the repairs made and winterization complete, the Highland Community Vegetable Garden looks forward to another successful and fruitful planting season! Thank you all for your help and support in 2010!

**"We are going to challenge the idea that regular citizens are unable to or lack the drive to make positive impacts on the city that they call home."**  
**-Leehe Shmueli,**  
**AmeriCorps**  
**VISTA**

### GreenRoots Leadership Development Program

In October, ReNU Niagara received a grant from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo to implement the GreenRoots Leadership Development Program aimed at building a youth and adult sustainable resident leadership base in Niagara Falls to help reduce existing demographic disparities. Ultimately intended to address the leadership gap that exists in the city, the program's goal is to disprove common misconceptions that regular citizens are not engaged in the process to make their community a "green" or "sustainable" community. The youth track began on Jan. 18, 2011; all sessions take place on Tuesdays from 4-6 p.m. Adult tracks are expected to begin with a kickoff on Saturday, May 14th.



Adults interested in applying to participate in the GreenRoots Leadership Development Program for adults may contact Leehe Shmueli at 716-205-0287 or [lshmueli@niagara.edu](mailto:lshmueli@niagara.edu).

(Excerpts from <http://www.niagara.edu/renu-niagara-receives-grant-to-implement-leadership-development-program/>)

#### ReNU Niagara Staff:

Jill A. Shuey  
 Executive Director  
[jshuey@niagara.edu](mailto:jshuey@niagara.edu)

Mary Ann Broda  
 Office Assistant  
[mbroda@niagara.edu](mailto:mbroda@niagara.edu)

Dr. David B. Taylor  
 Faculty Coordinator  
[dtaylor@niagara.edu](mailto:dtaylor@niagara.edu)

Leehe Shmueli  
 AmeriCorps VISTA

Zachary Straub  
 AmeriCorps VISTA

Robyn Roehm  
 NU Student Assistant

### Green Carpet Affair

On November 12th, 2010, a recognition event was held at Henry J. Kalfas Magnet School to thank all those that participated in the Highland Community Vegetable Garden during the 2010 season. Twenty-six individuals from Weed & Seed, Kalfas Magnet School, Niagara Falls Housing Authority, Highland Community Revitalization Committee, and Niagara Beautification



Volunteers pose during the Green Carpet

Commission were recognized for their work in the garden.

The event had a "movie premier" theme where segments of the movie *Dirt* were shown. Participants also received certificates and mementos for their work in the garden.

### College Green Bowl Grant

Members of *NU HOPE*, the environmental club at Niagara University, teamed up with ReNU Niagara to apply for one of three *College Green Bowl Grants* from the Community Foundation for Greater Buffalo this winter. Students will be building a community garden to benefit the community on Niagara University's campus. Produce will be used by both the campus and local community.

Members of the club, campus community and ReNU Niagara have plans to build on May 7th. All updates on the garden can be expected on Niagara



Pictured is the proposed community garden to be built on Niagara University's campus outside DePaul Hall. Upgrades to the existing greenhouse can also be seen in the background.

University's website.