



Office of the Mayor

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June 3, 2014

Greta Hansen
Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin
1717 North Stoughton Road
Madison, WI 53704-2605

Dear Greta, Staff and Board:

We know that you and your staff at CAC have been thanked, often and from the heart, for your work on behalf of community gardens in Madison and Dane County. Somehow those informal expressions of gratitude have not seemed adequate. We, the current members of the city's Community Garden Committee, want to say more, in a formal way, to you, your staff, and your Board.

Without CAC's work over the past thirty-plus years, there would be no community garden program now to talk and worry about, to maintain and build upon. We'd all have gone home after the Community Conversation.

It is hard to comprehend what CAC's staff has invested in these garden projects over the years: all the waterlines that Joe has installed and drained; all the after-work meetings and weekend events that took Shelly and Michele away from their families; all the urgent phone calls fielded by Micah about compost, about registration, neglected plots, garden leaders that left town.

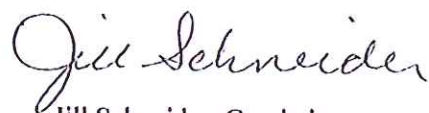
The neighborhoods' outpourings of energy and creativity--in the Leopold Park fence, in the Brittingham flower border--were nurtured and guided by CAC staff. There would be no gardens in city parks but for the willingness of CAC to shoulder the legal obligations of lessee and insurer.

We don't need all the demographic data required by CAC's funders to know that CAC's social action mission has been fulfilled in its community garden program. The fact that other constituencies in our community are also served only increases the value of CAC's efforts in the larger community.

We are reminded of the dedication and expertise of CAC staff at every meeting of the Community Garden Committee. We will miss each and every one of you, and we cannot thank you enough.

Sincerely,


Nan Fey, Co-Chair
Committee on Community Gardens


Jill Schneider, Co-chair
Committee on Community Gardens

CC: Justin Markofski, CDBG Committee Chair