

## Master Gardeners Reflect on Their Successes

### Success Stories

*Purdue Extension – Grant County*

*“Purdue Extension is the best-kept secret in the county.”*

*We hope not! Success stories are designed to give you, the reader, a “quick read” about a program that has shown some success lately.*

*We will be adding success stories periodically so that you can keep up with what we’re doing.*

*If you have questions about Purdue Extension programs, please contact us at:*

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**Purdue Extension**  
**Knowledge to Go**  
**Grant County**

The Master Gardener program was designed to multiply Extension's educational outreach in the local community. Adult volunteers are trained by Purdue Extension in an initial multi-week intern training class; then they teach others in the community in creative ways.

A "year reflection survey" was designed to capture a few ways that those acts of service and education impacted the local community and the Master Gardener in 2008:

- 83% said that as they volunteered this past year, their preparation for and doing the event(s) helped to increase their own knowledge as a gardener and/or teacher.
- 78% said their skills were enhanced.
- 61% said they aspire to teach as much or more next year because their volunteer experiences were meaningful to them this year.
- 61% also said they were able to promote better environmental stewardship through their volunteer teaching and/or service this year in at least one area (for example: using fertilizers wisely, using pesticides safely and judiciously, composting, etc.).
- 56% said their attitude toward volunteering had been shifted to a more generous position as a result of their volunteer experiences as a Master Gardener.

One volunteer wrote: “[I enjoy] helping people make their own decisions based on a little bit of information I have passed on.”

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