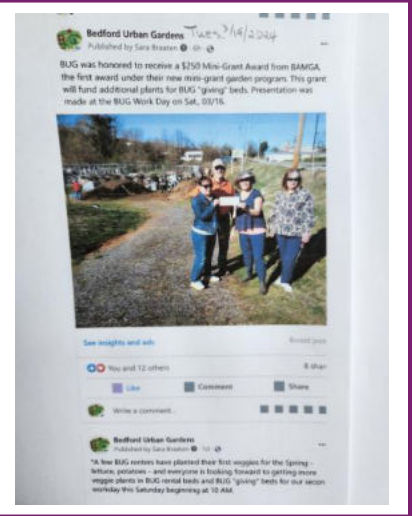


**Bedford Urban Garden, Inc. (BUG) / 406 Jackson Street / Bedford, VA 24523**  
**BAMGA \$250 Mini-Grant Award 03-08-2024**  
**Grant Outcome Report (12-29-2024) / Photo Gallery**



into the soil," others who handle packaging, deliveries and other functions -- all working together to achieve the BUG mission. **There is a place for every volunteer to contribute, whether able to plant, harvest, or help in other areas of service!**

**Grant Support Partners**

BUG was honored to receive a **\$250 Mini-Grant Award (03/2024)** from Bedford Area Master Gardeners Association (BAMGA), the first award recipient under their new mini-grant program.

Some of our very special 2023 grant support partners include the **Plymale Foundation** (\$650 Grant Award), **The Al Stroobants Foundation** (\$12K Grant Award), **Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation** (\$1500 Spring Grant Award), and **Bedford Community Health Foundation** (\$2400 Spring Grant Award).

**Additional Grant Awards** to BUG over several years include funds from **BCHF**, **Town of Bedford**, **GLCF**, **Lynchburg Area Food Council**, and **The Al Stroobants Foundation**.

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click on "Photo Gallery - Grant Partners / Contributors" to view related photos.

**Individuals & Vendor Support Partners**

Individuals and organizations, starting with **Dave McCormack**, **property owner**, play major roles in Bedford Urban Gardens' success, as Dave has made use of the land available for our community garden since its inception in 2013.

Vendor support partners include **Don Tolley Roofing**, **Rapid Printing**, **Royal Oak Farms**, **Wipdale Farm Greenhouse**, the **Society of St.**



Bedford Urban Gardens (BUG) promotes Bedford Area Master Gardeners Association (BAMGA), thanking BAMGA for the honor of being the first recipient of their new \$250 Mini-Grant Program. Promotional articles and photos shown above include Bedford Bulletin and Smith Mountain Eagle; Facebook posting; and recognition on the BUG website (Grant Support Partners and Photo Gallery-Grant Partners/Contributors).

Click on the link below to view the Monday, April 1, 2024, Daily News Feed (digital publication) of the Smith Mountain Eagle (also published in the Wednesday, April 3, print edition):

[https://www.smithmountaineagle.com/news/bedford-urban-gardens-first-organization-to-receive-mini-grant-award-from-bedford-area-master-gardeners/article\\_9a500854-edc6-11ee-a7de-97b7c49e61a7.html](https://www.smithmountaineagle.com/news/bedford-urban-gardens-first-organization-to-receive-mini-grant-award-from-bedford-area-master-gardeners/article_9a500854-edc6-11ee-a7de-97b7c49e61a7.html)



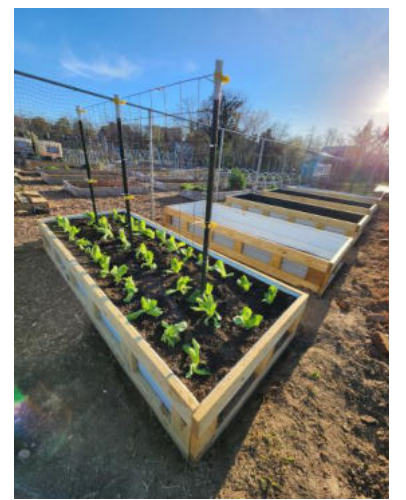
Some of the first purchases made included broccoli, cabbage, collards and lettuce starter plants.

Due to unanticipated vendor partner discounts, BUG was able to purchase (with the \$250 Mini-Grant Award) starter plants for both Spring and Summer plantings (replacing Spring's first-crop produce).

First plantings are in and growing in giving beds! Clockwise from left: Broccoli (promoted BAMGA and shared in a Facebook post 03-29-2024), lettuce, cabbage and collards.

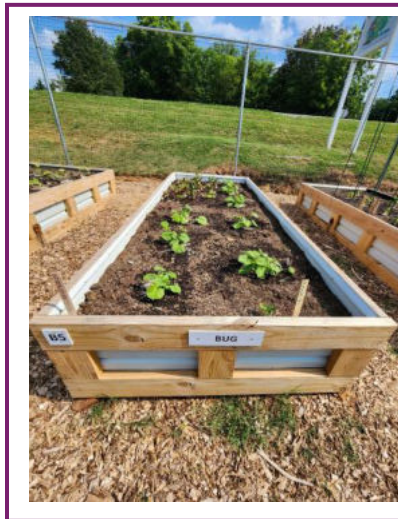
Spring plantings continued to thrive. The first harvest of produce (collards and lettuce) from BAMGA grant-funded plantings began in early April and continued steadily throughout the Spring harvest.

*Having starter plants (vs. starting from seed) helped speed the process from planting to harvest!*



As Spring harvest came to a close, giving beds were cleaned up and replaced with Summer starter plants. ↓ ↓ ↓

BAMGA grant-funded starter plants for Summer included clockwise from left: Squash, tomatoes, bell peppers, zucchini and, in the bull-fencing bed to the left, peppers on the outside to get maximum sun, and collards on the inside.



BUG incorporated companion planting methods wherever possible, surrounding tomato plants (in several giving beds) with mixed greens, radishes, carrots (all from seed) and/or basil (BAMGA grant-funded starter plants).

Despite the drought and other challenges of up-and-down weather, plant disease and insect problems were minimal, and productivity was high.



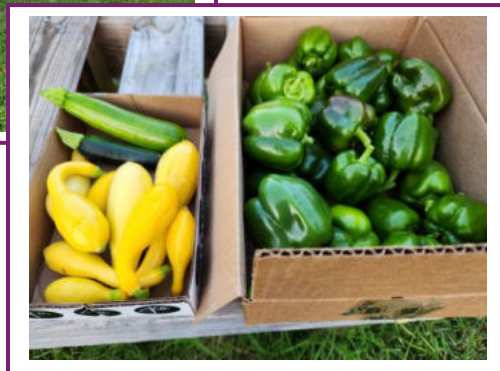
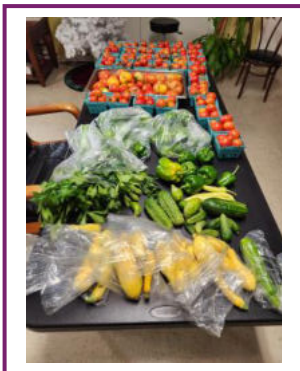
With \$250 in BAMGA Mini-grant funds, and unanticipated vendor partner discounts, BUG purchased starter plants of broccoli, lettuce, cabbage, collards, tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers (the only crop that didn't produce well due to weather issues), squash, zucchini and basil!

Harvesting Coordinators Amy Carter and Suzanne Warner, both BUG Board members, led their respective teams in harvesting twice each week throughout the growing season (barring weather issues), with donations delivered to John Early Apartments (an affordable senior-living complex located in a food desert region of Bedford) and Bedford Christian Ministries Food Pantry. Managers and produce recipients at both facilities continually express their appreciation for donation of fresh, healthy (organic) produce from BUG.

With a strong focus on quality and on-time harvesting (supporting BUG's commitment to optimum productivity and minimal waste), BUG donated a total of 677 pounds of organic vegetables produced from plants provided by the BAMGA Mini-Grant Award. This represents 55% of total donations from BUG giving beds and equates to an organic retail value (and savings to under-resourced households in the Town and County of Bedford) of over \$2,525.00.

Based on the above, would BUG recommend the continuance of BAMGA's Mini-grant program? Absolutely! From a start of \$250 – with added love, care and attention by BUG volunteers (including BUG Garden Manager, BUG Harvesting teams, Board members, BUG Advisors, BUG renters, and Friends of BUG) – to an outcome valued at over \$2,525.00.

Thank you, BAMGA, again, for the honor and privilege of being the first non-profit organization to receive your new \$250 Mini-grant award.



Respectfully submitted,

*Sherry Revell*

Sherry Revell, President (2023-2024)  
Bedford Urban Gardens  
540-494-0097