



**JOHNSON COUNTY**  
KANSAS  
**Health & Environment**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

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**Johnson County WIC Community Garden receives award for advancing sustainability**

JOHNSON COUNTY, KANSAS (Dec. 4, 2014) –The Johnson County WIC Community Garden is feeding families in need and winning an award. The garden will receive a Sustainable Success Stories Award from the Mid-America Regional Council on Dec. 5. This annual award is highly competitive and the WIC Community Garden joins eight other community projects in achieving this honor. Award recipients are selected based on their ability to advance the three pillars of sustainability — social equity, economic vitality and environmental stewardship.

The mission of the WIC Community Garden is to educate, empower and feed the clients in the Kansas Women, Infants, Children (WIC) program, thereby creating a healthier community. In its second year, the garden produced 1,500 pounds of fresh vegetables. All of the produce harvested from the garden was distributed to over 800 families enrolled in the WIC program, many of whom also helped volunteer in the garden. The garden tripled in size from 2013 to 2014 and a micro orchard was planted this fall further expanding the ability to teach and feed Johnson County's most vulnerable citizens.

The current federal stipend for fruits and vegetables to nursing and pregnant women enrolled in the WIC program is \$10 per month; children only receive \$6 per month. While clients appreciate this help, the WIC community garden provides an additional opportunity for them to get fresh fruits and vegetables. The garden is located on public county property just a few feet from the front door of the Olathe WIC office (11875 S. Sunset Drive) where over 4,000 clients are currently enrolled in the program. WIC clients who volunteer in the garden are given first pick of the fresh fruits and vegetables. The remaining produce is distributed to clients through the WIC office.

Volunteers are welcome to participate in this exciting and beneficial community garden. They can sign up by contacting the volunteer coordinator at [gardencoordinator@jocogov.org](mailto:gardencoordinator@jocogov.org) or online at <http://www.jocogov.org/dept/health-and-environment/health/wic/community-garden>

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**About Johnson County, Kansas**

Located in the southwestern quadrant of the Kansas City Metropolitan Region, Johnson County, Kansas is a community of choice with a current population of more than 560,000, making it the most populated of the 105 counties in Kansas, but traditionally having the lowest mill levy in the state. For more information visit the county's website at [www.jocogov.org](http://www.jocogov.org).