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ORANGE HCAT PARTNERSHIP FLOURISHES TO PROVIDE MORE THAN 1,200 POUNDS OF PRODUCE TO LOCAL FOOD PANTRY IN FY23

ORANGE COUNTY, Va. – The Orange County Office on Youth is pleased to announce that its partnership with Orange Baptist Church through the Orange Healthy Community Action Team (HCAT) has provided more than 1,200 pounds of fresh, locally grown produce to those in need through the Love Outreach Food Pantry since July 1, 2022.

This partnership enabled the creation of the *Mustard Seed Garden* located on Orange Baptist Church property. The garden is maintained by countless volunteers in support of the Church's goal to serve neighbors in need and the HCAT's mission to break barriers to healthy childhoods in Orange County. Examples of produce contributed to the Food Pantry include fresh zucchini, squash, peppers, cucumbers, green beans, and more.

Bonnie Plants donated all produce plants used in the summer garden and was responsible for most of the plant donations in the fall. Other donors have contributed straw and wood clippings for mulch, in addition to quality compost material. Grant sources have provided for water tap fees, fencing and irrigation needs, and general supplies.

The collaborators of the Mustard Seed Garden look forward to expanding its reach in the community while continuing to acknowledge community members who make these goals possible. For additional information about the Orange HCAT and its local partnerships, please contact Ashley Jacobs, Office on Youth Program Coordinator, at (540) 672-5484 or ajacobs@orangecountyva.gov.

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