

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Plots Available in the Eastmont Community Garden

A Cooperative Effort between Columbia Valley Community Health and the WSU Chelan County Master Gardeners offer goals of food, family, health and fun

Wednesday, May 22, 2013: **East Wenatchee, WA:** [Columbia Valley Community Health](#) and the [WSU Chelan County Master Gardener Program](#) have partnered together to establish the Eastmont Community Garden, located adjacent to the CVCH Express Care Clinic on 9th Street and Eastmont Avenue in East Wenatchee. Plots are now available for planting for a fee of \$25 per garden season per plot. Additional plots may be available based upon approval of garden management and demand for plots.

This exciting cooperative effort is the result of a natural partnership of two like-minded organizations – Columbia Valley Community Health (CVCH) and the WSU Chelan County Master Gardener Program. In 2012, **Dr. Don Shurtz**, D.D.S, Eastmont Family Dental, and **Dr. Rob Merrill**, Merrill Orthodontics, completed the required coursework of the Master Gardener Program, a program of WSU and the Extension Office in Wenatchee. The location of their professional practices and their recent participation in the Master Gardener program sparked an idea.

“When the CVCH Express Care Clinic went in across the street from our offices, it crossed our minds that perhaps there was a community need that could be met by utilizing the undeveloped CVCH land until future development phases were ready to break ground,” Dr. Merrill says. “We thought this land could be used for vegetable gardening by community members and their families. We discussed the concept with **Patrick Bucknum** (CEO at CVCH) and with **Jennifer Marquis** (Master Gardener Coordinator) and it seemed to be a natural fit that could compliment the missions of both organizations.”

The garden is open to all community members and CVCH hopes that many of the gardeners will be CVCH patients and employees. The goals for the community garden are food, family, health and fun while providing multiple benefits to local families – all for whom both organizations are dedicated to serving. Dr. Shurtz is excited about this project because of all the benefits that come from working to grow “your own food”.

“Picking a cucumber from your own garden is not only a great tasting treat, but provides a person with a sense of accomplishment and success,” Shurtz says. “It gives me the opportunity to interact with children and grandchildren and make practical application to all of life’s opportunities – nothing good comes without effort. I have always found that there is something therapeutic about working in the soil. After a stressful, confining day in the office, it feels good to relax in the vegetable garden, get your hands dirty, smell the good earth, pull

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CVCH Press Release: Eastmont Community Garden Plots Available for Planting

a few weeds, and generally make a difference in how you feel about the world. I would like to see more people having these same opportunities and experiences."

The Eastmont Community Garden will be open 24 hours a day and seven days a week. WSU Master Gardener volunteers will be providing the education at the garden on Tuesdays from 5-8pm. All interested individuals can contact eastmontcommunitygarden@gmail.com for more information and to reserve their plot. The Master Gardeners hope to have all plots planted by June 1, 2013. The \$25 fee is to offset the garden tilling and other costs. The plots are about 20' x 20' and will be filled on a first come, first serve basis.

About Columbia Valley Community Health

[Columbia Valley Community Health](#) is a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) that offers medical, dental, behavioral health, pharmacy, WIC and outreach services to everyone in Chelan and Douglas Counties. Their mission is to provide access to improved health and wellness with compassion and respect for all. Established in 1972, CVCH is now an industry leader and was the first in the Pacific Northwest to achieve the Joint Commission's Primary Care Medical Home certification. CVCH serves over 24,000 patients a year between all of its departments and locations in Wenatchee, East Wenatchee and Chelan.

About The WSU Chelan County Master Gardener Program

The [WSU Chelan County Master Gardener Program](#) promotes environmentally responsible gardening practices and addresses environmental and social priorities such as water conservation, the protection of water quality, reducing the impact of invasive species, and healthy living through gardening.

WSU Chelan County Master Gardener Program Disclaimer

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