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## 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Growing to Green Awards Honor Local Community Gardeners

(Columbus, OH) On the evening of September 11, 2013, over 200 community gardeners and local business and civic leaders gathered on the ScottsMiracle-Gro Community Garden Campus at the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Growing to Green Awards. This annual potluck dinner and harvest celebration honors the hard work of community gardeners throughout central Ohio. This year's event featured a keynote address by Su Lok, Director of Corporate and Community Partnerships for The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company.

Monetary awards were presented in multiple categories. Nominees were judged by Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens' Women's Board, community garden leaders and the American Community Gardening Association.

Winners of the 2013 Growing to Green Awards:

Neighborhood Improvement Project of the Year: \$250 awarded to the project that does the most benefit to its surrounding community.

**Franklinton Gardens for the median beds in Franklinton**

Education Garden of the Year: \$500 awarded to a school or other organization that best utilizes garden projects for educational purposes.

**Otterbein Community Garden**

Sustainability Award: Sponsored by the American Community Gardening Association, \$250 and a garden cart are awarded to a garden best utilizing sustainable gardening practices.

**Ganther's Place**

Paul B. Redman Youth Leadership Award: Presented by the Conservatory's Women's Board, \$250 awarded to an outstanding youth gardener, to be used to further his/her education or applied toward his/her community garden.

**Da'vetra Stewart, Wedgewood Community Garden**

Community Gardener of the Year: \$250 awarded to a person who is exceptionally dedicated to his/her community garden and the gardening movement in central Ohio.

**William Kline, Highland Youth Garden**

Community Garden of the Year: \$500 awarded to the top neighborhood gardening project for food production or beautification.

**Mid-Ohio Food Bank Community Garden**

Boyd D. Bowden, D.O. Garden Impact Award: \$750 awarded to the top neighborhood gardening project for significant and sustainable impact on the health and vitality of its community

**Highland Youth Garden**

The Conservatory's Growing to Green Program is supported by: Cardinal Health, JP Morgan Chase, The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company, GreenScapes Landscape Co., The Hinson Family Trust, The Nancy Wolfe Lane Family Fund, The American Community Gardening Association, the Osteopathic Heritage Foundation in cooperation with the Boyd Bowden Family, and City Barbeque.

## About Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens and Growing to Green

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Franklin Park Conservatory and Botanical Gardens features plant collections, art and nature-based exhibitions, plant shows, and educational programs for all ages. Situated in an 88-acre urban park, the Conservatory features the historic 1895 John F. Wolfe Palm House and 83,000 square feet of glasshouses, classrooms, and meeting and event spaces. The Conservatory's Growing to Green program is Columbus' largest organized effort to promote and provide free resources for community gardening. Growing to Green has provided resources to more than 200 community gardens, schools gardens, and neighborhood beautification projects throughout the central Ohio area.

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