



Windmill Hydroponics

Windmill Hydroponics is a 6-bay greenhouse that Christian Horizons began in 1998. In the past two years we have grown tomatoes hydroponically, a method which uses no soil. Each 3900 square foot bay holds 870 tomato plants that grow to be about 25 feet long. The seeds are started in January or February and tomatoes are available May through November. Several people with developmental disabilities have benefited from jobs, job training and horticultural therapy.

These last two years have been enjoyable but challenging. Recently the competition from Canada and Mexico has caused the prices to drop significantly. The summer of 1999 was very hot, with many 90 degree days. The environmental controls at the greenhouse are old and was unable to cool sufficiently, which had a severe impact on the crop. These two factors, coupled with normal start up costs, prevented us from operating within our projected budget.

We have been researching different crops and visiting other

greenhouses to explore further growing options. There are many teaching opportunities in the area of hydroponics, horticulture and horticultural therapy. We have been working with the Mental Health community to provide job opportunities and job training for people with developmental disabilities.

Using the supplies on hand and some donations, we have planted a small crop of tomato seeds and plan to plant some strawberries and herbs. We hope to run a u-pick operation, where people in the community can come in and pick their own. Any extra produce we will take to the Farmers Market to sell.

We know the Lord has plans to touch many lives here at the greenhouse. His plans are not always the same as ours, but as we faithfully seek Him and follow His plans, it is very exciting to see Him work. Our greenhouse key verse is John 15:5, *"I am the vine, you are the branch. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit. Apart from me you can do nothing."*

Meet the Board of Directors

In each newsletter, we feature one board member, so you can get to know us. In this newsletter you will meet Nora Eastway.

Nora is the president of the board of directors. Nora and her husband, Steve, have been married for 20 years. They live in Mc Bain, MI with their two boys, Michael and Xavier. They are the administrators for an AFC home and attend Northland Community Church. Nora is a nurse and has a bachelors degree in Business Administration. She enjoys gardening, crocheting, sewing, boating and biking.

Nora has been involved with CHI for 18 years. She has been involved as a board member for 12 of those

years. Nora and Steve learned about CHI at a presentation done by Larry Avery at Marion Community Church. Her favorite part about working with CHI is the people, developing friendships and having fun.

Her favorite Bible verses are Isaiah 40:31 *"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength."* and Isaiah 26:3 *"Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed upon thee."* Her favorite Bible character and lesson is Moses as he leads God's people. Her favorite line is "I can't, Lord". The Lord always equipped him to do whatever needed to be done.



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Conference 2000 Update

We are so excited! Conference 2000 will be here in no time. We began working on it in August of last year. Our prayers, ideas and hard work are all coming together. We have been able to renew contacts we thought we had lost and we have made several new contacts. We have been praying for full weeks the Lord is blessing. One week is completely full and another has no room for male guests.

We still need a lifeguard for all four weeks and male counselors for three weeks. We also need kitchen help for the one week in Howell. We need a lifeguard for all four weeks. If you can help, or know some one who can, please contact us at (616) 956-7063.

Thank You

We would like to thank Webberville United Methodist Church for giving us the opportunity to share with them about the ministry of CHI. If you would like us to come and share with your church or ministry group, please call us at (616) 956-7063.

Thank you to all the volunteers and work crews who came in and did different projects at the greenhouse. We appreciate you very much.

Sponsorships

Our desire is to turn no one away because of their inability to pay for their week at conference. Our sponsorship program helps defer the cost for those who need it. We ask each guest to pay the first \$100.00. Some can barely come up with that; others can pay a little more but not the full amount. We ask the caregivers to send us 3 names of people we may contact to assist the guests in their individual conference fees. We do not always receive 3 names and some are unable to give. That is when we feel we need to come to the friends and families of CHI. Every small amount helps. If you are interested in choosing one guest to help or would like to donate to our general sponsorship fund, please call or send for information. Please pray and consider helping to provide a week of conference for a special someone.

Member of

