

NORTH INDY



Shawn Wolfgram, Fishers, and Carolyn Mattingly, Indianapolis, worked on raised garden frames that will create a joint garden between the Benjamin Harrison YMCA and St. Mary's Child Center. A \$500 donation helped to fund the project.



MATT DETRICH / The Star

From left: Shawn Wolfgram, Fishers; Carolyn Mattingly, Indianapolis; and Melissa McGraw, Noblesville; assemble a raised garden frame. Children from the Benjamin Harrison YMCA and St. Mary's Child Center will plant and tend the garden spaces.

Youths' garden to help food pantries

By William J. Booher
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On a piece of land in Lawrence between the Benjamin Harrison YMCA and St. Mary's Child Center, a garden is being created.

In a neighborly fashion, the Y has joined hands with the child center in the endeavor that was launched by a \$500 gift from Fort Harrison Reuse Authority.

A week ago, Y staff members built wooden borders to

create six raised garden beds.

Children in Benjamin Harrison YMCA youth programs will weed and water those garden spaces, where they will grow zucchini, tomatoes, squash and beans to be donated to food pantries in Lawrence, said Shawn Wolfgram, senior program executive at the Y along Lee Road.

The children, ages 3 to 5, at St. Mary's will plant seeds for pumpkins and corn for their enjoyment in two more garden plots, where the plants can spread and grow unencumbered by wooden borders.

"We've never had the space to do that," said Lynné McGuire, St. Mary's director of curriculum and outreach,

of the center's site along Hawkins Road.

Now, children at St. Mary's and the Y have a joint garden just steps away that is 20 feet by 80 feet.

Wolfgram said seed plantings by the children will be sometime in mid-May.

Kris Butler, executive director of Fort Harrison Reuse Authority, said the gift represented support of the Y and an opportunity for a joint venture with neighboring St. Mary's.

"I'm a huge supporter of the YMCA," said Butler, who is a member.

★ Call Star reporter William Booher at (317) 444-2706.