

Washington County EOC, Inc.



**WASHINGTON COUNTY
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
COUNCIL, INC.**

Salem Courthouse Community Garden

The vision for the Salem Courthouse Community Garden (CCG) includes: teaching youth to garden, cook and market food products. Youth served their community and offered the provisions of the garden to local food pantries. This project provided youth with valuable work experience and an opportunity to give back to their community. In addition to the work experience, youth are also linked to community partners at the Lunch N' Learn program, nutrition and educational program in Salem, and the Battenkill Kitchen where they learned how to cook and prepare food.

The CCG received donations of fences, posts, seeds and plants from the local businesses. Work in the field began in April of 2009 and youth worked on site until September. Washington County youth worked at this site including one as the Assistant Coordinator who directed the planting, watering, weeding and harvesting. She also assisted in planning work schedules, updated website materials and worked at the Farmers' Market. Other youth worked as Garden Helpers doing garden maintenance, weeding and harvesting. Youth also attended academic workshops facilitated by the Youth Counselors and partnering agencies. Each youth earned about \$1600.00 in wages.

Governor Paterson's Executive Chef, Noah Sheetz, attended the planting day and spoke about the importance of making healthy food choices. Youth and leaders received an invitation to the Governor's Mansion for a tour and lunch hosted by Chef Noah Sheetz in July. The visit was both social and education as youth enjoyed food while learning about a career as a professional chef.



**The total ARRA investment for this
project was \$10,000.00**