



Parma Lutheran Church Community Garden 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

The Garden successfully completed its 5th year of operation and remains financially self-sustaining through plot fees, grants, and donations. Rainwater for sprinkling is harvested from the church roof and channeled into storage bins, which now total over 1,200 gallons in capacity. In times of drought, the Garden uses tap water and reimburses the church.

A key part of the Garden's mission is to grow fresh produce for the Parma Hunger Center. Six designated Hunger Center plots donate 100% of their harvest to the Hunger Center. 24 plots are individually leased with 10% of their harvest pledged to the Hunger Center. The growing area of all plots totals 1,546 s.f. Plottolders and volunteers are PLC members and gardeners from the community.

Vegetables are harvested twice weekly and delivered to the Hunger Center. Donations are packaged and weighed prior to delivery. The Garden thanks the congregation for faithfully supplying recycled clamshells and produce bags throughout the season. They have been put to good use!

Woodmen of the World, a fraternal organization that meets at PLC, has been a strong supporter of the Garden from its inception, both with hands-on help and generous grant funding. In 2014 they formally became Garden partners. This year they donated \$500. Part of that was used to purchase a new ladder. Thrivent, a fraternal organization with origins in the Lutheran church, provided a pizza lunch and T-shirts this spring. Greg's Tree Service donated wood chips for paths. OSU-E's Suburban Gardening Program contributed cover crop seed, seed garlic, and dependable advice.

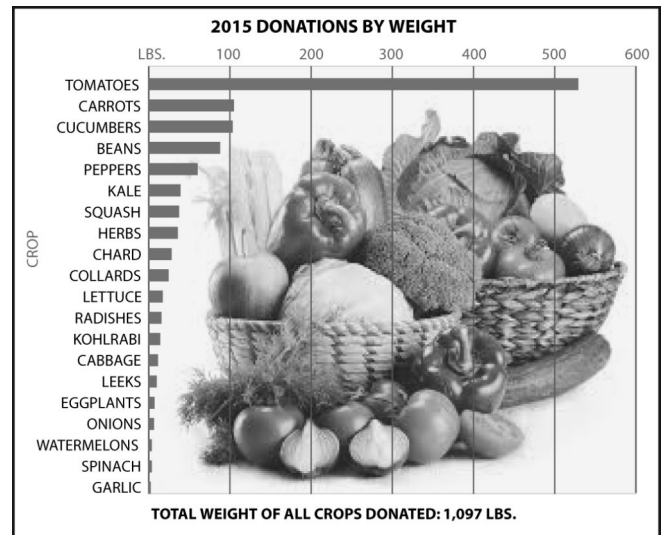
Though green beans and cucumbers flourished, the Garden faced some challenges this year. A cool and rainy June delayed both tomatoes and peppers, Zucchini struggled to set fruit and was then attacked by squash borers and powdery mildew. Flea beetles decimated eggplants throughout the summer. In all, 1,097 lbs. of fresh produce were donated to the Parma Hunger Center.

Deer discovered us early in the summer and dropped by periodically. Feeding damage within the Garden was slight, but crops growing on the perimeter fence and the entrance trellises were frequent targets.

We will be installing deer netting to add height above our chain link fence next year.

There were Improvements, additions, and changes this year including:

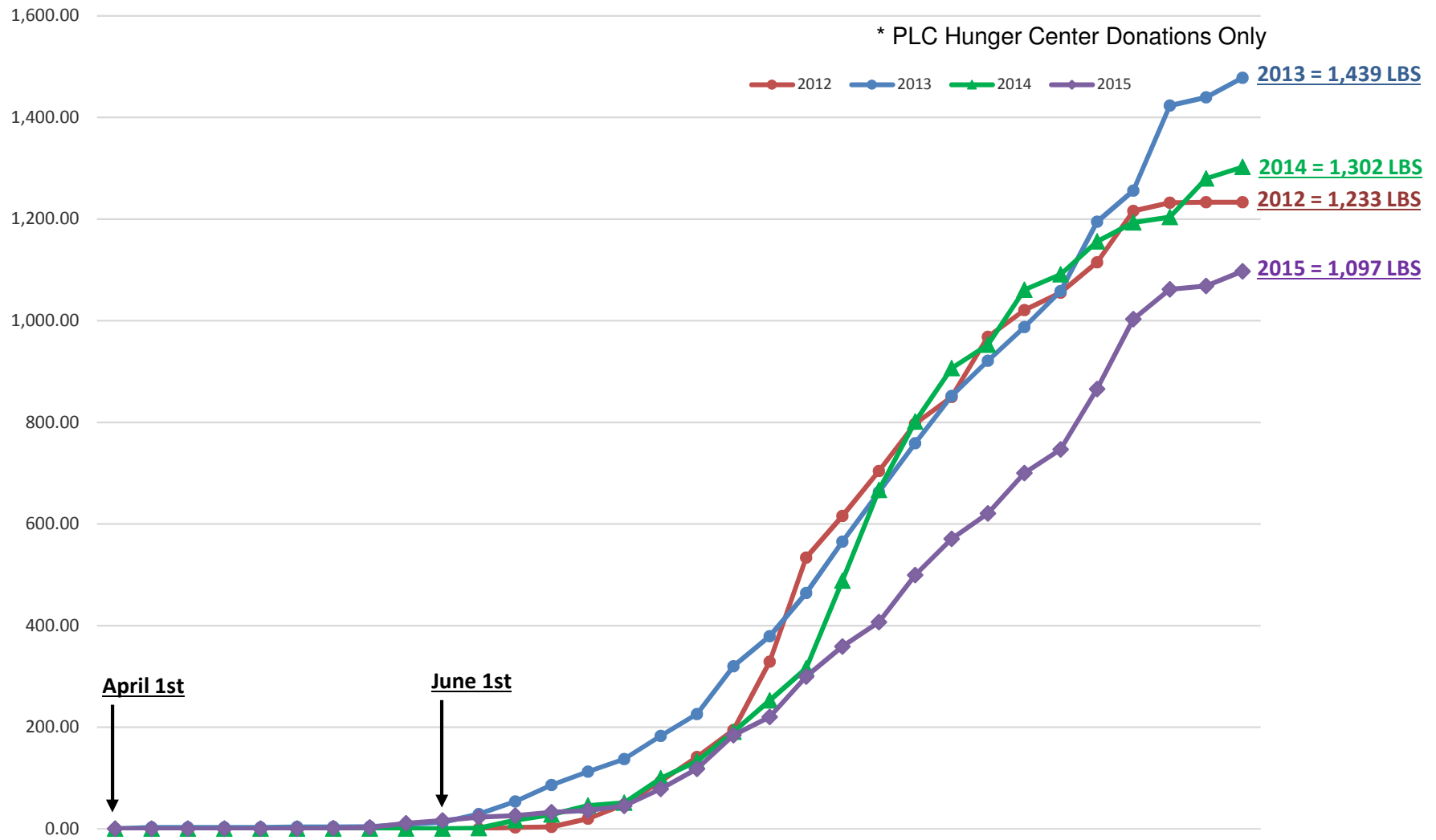
- A new entrance gate with hinges. The original garden gate frame cracked, and because it lacked hinges, was difficult to open and close.
- A custom-designed arbor with inset trellises was added to the entrance. It clearly identifies the garden and invites gardeners and visitors alike to step inside. We grew pole beans on the trellises this year.
- A sturdy new ladder to replace an old, unsafe one.
- A 6-foot outdoor folding table for sorting and packaging produce.
- Plumbing to connect a drainpipe to a third rainwater storage bin.
- Rolls of black and red sheet plastic mulch for weed control and warming of the soil.



Applications for 2016 will be available in the narthex and online by late February. Even if you don't want to lease a plot, volunteers are always welcome to help tend and harvest the dedicated Hunger Center plots on an occasional or ongoing basis.

Brett lafigliola, P.E., Garden Director
Ruth Moadlo and Marilyn Molzan, Operations Managers

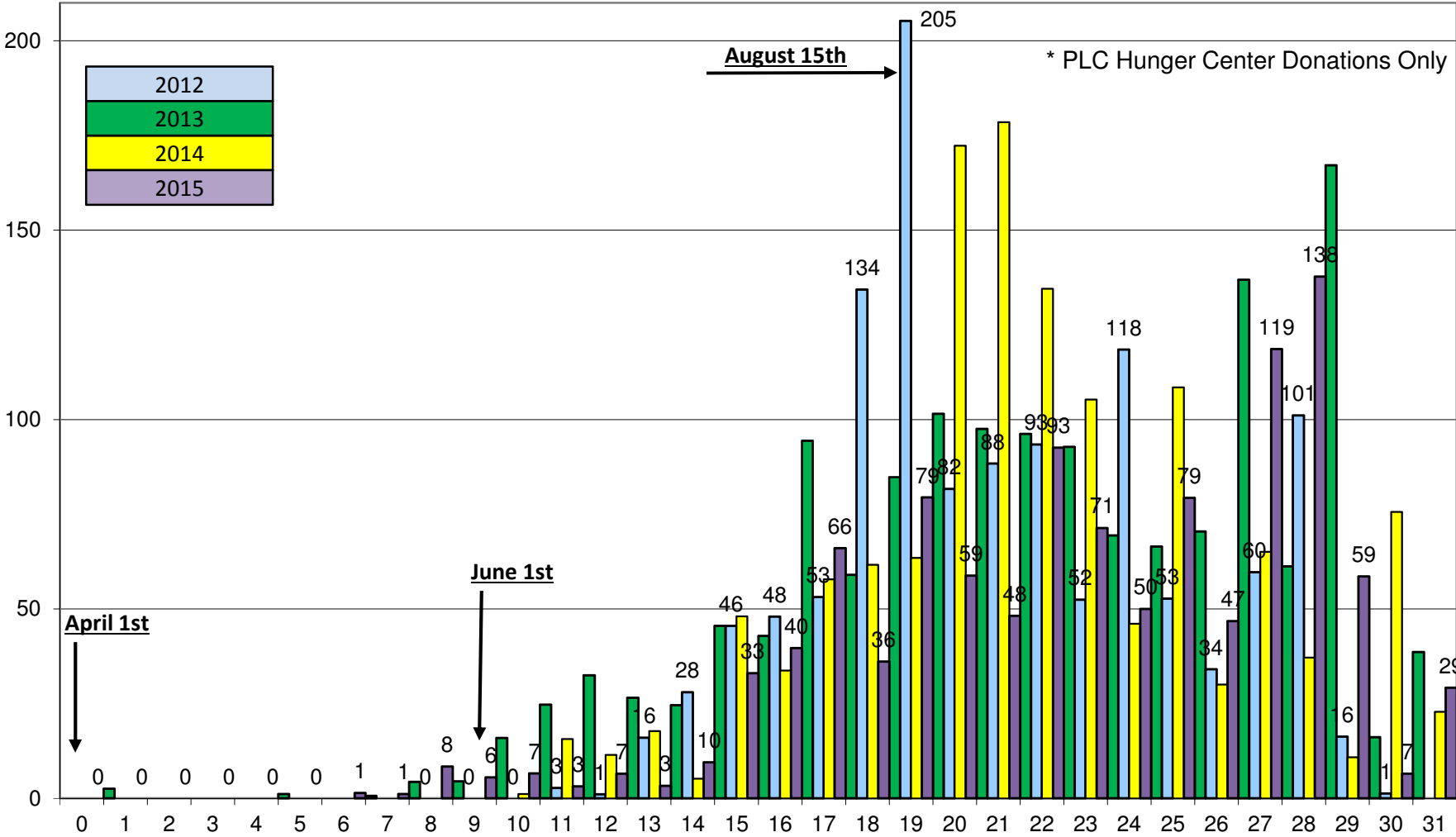
**PARMA LUTHERAN CHURCH
COMMUNITY GARDEN
FIGURE #1 - 2012 to 2015 : Cumulative HC Donations ***



**PARMA LUTHERAN CHURCH
COMMUNITY GARDEN
2012 vs. 2013 vs. 2014 vs. 2015 : By Produce Type**

	<u>2012</u>	<u>COUNT</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>COUNT</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>COUNT</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>COUNT</u>	<u>%</u>
TOMATO	798.33	387	65%	791.63	276	54%	572.88	262	44%	525.31	193	48%
CARROT	14.38	7	1%	31.75	22	2%	26.00	8	2%	103.31	32	9%
CUCUMBER	39.10	23	3%	51.38	27	3%	88.06	59	7%	102.00	53	9%
BEANS	33.65	39	3%	29.38	36	2%	82.44	71	6%	89.63	78	8%
PEPPER	102.99	138	8%	109.63	140	7%	108.25	134	8%	60.38	66	6%
KALE	9.16	25	1%	32.13	53	2%	54.88	81	4%	37.13	52	3%
SQUASH	121.05	50	10%	35.50	19	2%	96.88	42	7%	35.75	21	3%
HERBS	17.05	61	1%	36.19	93	2%	39.88	35	3%	34.31	35	3%
CHARD	22.15	38	2%	64.56	60	4%	34.75	53	3%	23.75	24	2%
COLLARDS	0.19	1	0%	32.69	30	2%	0.00	0	0%	19.81	20	2%
LETTUCE	16.26	26	1%	34.69	31	2%	24.13	28	2%	13.50	24	1%
RADISH	6.76	6	1%	30.25	22	2%	4.00	4	0%	12.69	6	1%
KOHLRABI	4.57	5	0%	51.88	27	4%	19.38	17	1%	9.81	6	1%
CABBAGE	0.00	0	0%	10.88	6	1%	15.75	7	1%	8.00	1	1%
LEEK	0.00	0	0%	0.00	0	0%	18.81	9	1%	5.56	4	1%
EGGPLANT	28.61	33	2%	32.94	33	2%	46.25	36	4%	5.25	5	0%
ONION	2.01	6	0%	14.44	16	1%	2.69	6	0%	4.50	4	0%
WATERMELON	0.00	0	0%	55.44	14	4%	39.06	9	3%	3.63	1	0%
SPINACH	0.31	1	0%	4.06	7	0%	5.25	4	0%	2.63	5	0%
GARLIC	0.81	1	0%	0.00	0	0%	0.00	0	0%	0.25	1	0%
BEETS	8.75	6	1%	6.81	8	0%	13.00	5	1%	0.00	0	0%
POTATO	0.00	0	0%	0.50	1	0%	3.69	1	0%	0.00	0	0%
PEAS	0.00	0	0%	4.81	9	0%	2.94	3	0%	0.00	0	0%
BASIL	4.22	17	0%	8.44	17	1%	2.50	12	0%	0.00	0	0%
TURNIPS	0.00	0	0%	0.88	1	0%	0.81	1	0%	0.00	0	0%
BRUSSEL SPROUT	0.00	0	0%	0.00	0	0%	0.50	1	0%	0.00	0	0%
PAK CHOI	0.00	0	0%	4.06	4	0%	0.00	0	0%	0.00	0	0%
BROCCOLI	1.00	2	0%	1.06	4	0%	0.00	0	0%	0.00	0	0%
STRAWBERRY	0.00	0	0%	0.06	1	0%	0.00	0	0%	0.00	0	0%
MUSTARD GREENS	0.75	2	0%	0.00	0	0%	0.00	0	0%	0.00	0	0%
OKRA	0.38	1	0%	0.00	0	0%	0.00	0	0%	0.25	1	0%
TOTALS:	1,232	875		1,476	957		1,303	888		1,097	632	
	LBS	Entries		LBS	Entries		LBS	Entries		LBS	Entries	

**PARMA LUTHERAN CHURCH
COMMUNITY GARDEN
FIGURE #2 - Produce Donated Per Week ***



**PARMA LUTHERAN CHURCH
COMMUNITY GARDEN
FIGURE #3 - By Produce Type**

