



**For Immediate Release**

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**Grant Elementary Garden Celebration**



Volunteers from Isles & TCNJ Bonner Program help recreate a sustainable garden space.

**Trenton, N.J.** – Grant Elementary School, with the support of Isles and the National Wildlife Federation, will host its Earth Day Garden Celebration Event on Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 4. The event will officially unveil the redeveloped school garden at Grant Elementary, as well as the native edible and medicinal plants donated from the National Wildlife Federation. This celebration is open to press, as well as friends and family of current students.

At the busy corner of Perry and Southard Streets in Trenton sits Grant Elementary’s school garden. This garden has existed for over ten years, but had fallen into disrepair in recent years. Isles, working with volunteers from The College of New Jersey Bonner Program and the Master Gardeners of Mercer County, repaired and revitalized the garden into a sustainable green space.

The Grant Elementary Garden is one of more than 75 school and community gardens supported by Isles. Isles provides a range of training and support to people who grow their own fresh fruits and vegetables in seventy community and school gardens. Gardeners harvest more than 20,000 pounds of fresh produce each year, increasing food access and improving food quality in Trenton.

This revitalization project was led by Isles’ FoodCorps Service Member, Catherine Lowther. She describes, “The kids really wanted to be outside and digging in the garden, but it was becoming a hazard when the garden would literally start to crumble when someone leaned on it. It was great to have volunteers come together to make the garden safe, useable, and beautiful again.”

Alongside the raised beds, Catherine also hopes to fill the newly dug garden along the fence with perennial plants. These native edible and medicinal plants are donated from the National Wildlife Federation. Plants include Persimmons, a fruit tree producing red-brown or orange sweet fruits full of Vitamin A, and witch hazel, a medicinal plant used for hundreds of years as an astringent. These plants will create a strong border to eliminate noise and visual distractions as well as provide the community with useful plants that community members can use for healing and nourishment.

Friends and family of students from Grant Elementary are encouraged to participate during Grant Elementary's Earth Day Event celebrating the new garden space on April 28th from 10-4 and take home a native plant for their own home garden.

### **About Isles**

Founded in 1981, Isles, Inc. is a community development and environmental organization based in Trenton, New Jersey. With a mission to foster self-reliant families and healthy, sustainable communities, Isles designs and develops effective services that support this mission and share what they learn with others who can make a difference. Beyond its central New Jersey base, Isles works to influence policy and practices that support healthy, self-help agendas. For more information, visit [www.isles.org](http://www.isles.org), [facebook.com/islesinc](https://www.facebook.com/islesinc), and [twitter.com/islesinc](https://www.twitter.com/islesinc).

### **About the National Wildlife Federation**

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) is a leading voice for wildlife and wild places. For more than 80 years, the National Wildlife Federation has worked to protect and preserve some of America's most iconic habitats and species – preserving a natural legacy for future generations. The National Wildlife Federation provides turnkey solutions for businesses that help corporate social responsibility, human resources, marketing & advertising professionals, and others engage their audiences and support a vital cause. Learn more at <http://www.nwf.org>.

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