

## Youth In Need Dedicates Its Monsanto Fund Science Discovery Garden 6,000-Square Foot Garden to Serve 1,500 Children, Teens Each Year

Youth In Need dedicated its 6,000-square foot Monsanto Fund Science Discovery Garden on Sunday, May 4. The garden is located at Youth In Need's central office at 1815 Boone's Lick Road in St. Charles and will serve approximately 1,500 of Youth In Need's children and teens each year.

The formal dedication ceremony included a presentation of gifts to lead funder the Monsanto Fund, who contributed \$50,000 for Youth In Need to begin the garden, and the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Metro St. Louis for their \$10,000 contribution. A representative from Congressman W. Todd Akin's office also attended to share the Congressman's well-wishes in a statement. He wrote, "It is my privilege, as a Representative of Missouri's



Second Congressional District, to commend

Youth In Need for its foresight in planning and initiating construction of the Monsanto Fund Science Discovery Garden. This new facility demonstrates this organization's strong commitment to provide quality education and care for the needs of a vigorously growing community." The dedication concluded when children in Youth In Need's Head Start program sang a song to attendees, and guests released 100 butterflies into the garden's landscape.

The free afternoon event offered guests an outdoor fair-like environment that entertained children and families with garden crafts, educational presentations about frogs and butterflies, face painting, a petting zoo, refreshments and storytelling.

Three volunteer Master Gardeners designed and implemented the extensive landscape, which recently won an award from the National Gardening Association, recognizing the garden as one of 50 top children's gardens in the country.

The garden includes a three-tiered koi pond, gazebo, hand-painted tee-pee, compost bins, raised vegetable beds, butterfly bushes, play structure, sand area and more than 100 plants, trees and shrubs.

The garden also includes many educational components and allows children of all ages to experience hands-on learning about plant, insect and small bird life, as well as grow garden produce. Youth In Need's teachers use a curriculum that engages children in learning about plants, agriculture and taking care of the Earth.



The entrance to Youth In Need's Monsanto Fund Science Discovery Garden.



Tom Terrific gives a presentation about butterflies to attendees.



Judy Wiegand, Volunteer Master Gardener; Anita Viehmann, Youth In Need's Development Manager - Events; Susan Rentfrow, Volunteer Master Gardener; Jim Braun, Youth In Need's Pres. and CEO; Laurie Schoenecker, Volunteer Master Gardener; Marissa Pulizzi, Youth In Need's Vice Pres. of Development and Marketing; and Fran Ventimiglia, a Youth In Need Board Member. Wiegand, Rentfrow and Schoenecker designed and implemented the garden's landscape after Rentfrow met Ventimiglia at a volunteer fair.



A child climbs the garden's play structure, a gift from the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Metro St. Louis.

Jim Braun, Youth In Need's President and CEO, presents a gift of appreciation to Deborah Patterson, The Monsanto Fund's President. Monsanto Fund contributed \$50,000 to build the garden.



Children dig for buried treasure in the garden's sand area. Diggers who uncovered gold rocks won prizes.



Sage Rentfrow, center, gives a presentation about the life cycle of the frog to children who attended the dedication.



A child pets a miniature goat named Sophie in the petting zoo.



Grandmother Coyote prepares to tell stories to attendees.

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