

CSREES COMPETITIVE PROGRAMS RESEARCH RESULTS

Let Us Eat

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The Community Food Project promotes projects that inspire leadership and active community involvement. These projects foster relationships that benefit all participants well beyond the funding cycle.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the Community Food Project program in the Cooperative State Research Education and Extension Service (CSREES). A Decadal Celebration on Capitol Hill is scheduled for March 19th 2007.

The United States is a veritable bread basket, producing large quantities of healthy and nutritious food. Unfortunately, this bountiful harvest is not easily accessible to all Americans. The Community Food Project program funds proactive projects making food accessible to low income communities and helping residents become self-sufficient with their food supplies. Over the past decade, the Community Food Project program funded 211 projects for a total of \$31,460,975.

In 1996, the Kauai Food Bank was one of the first projects funded through the Community Food Project program. At that time, Kauai was still recovering from Hurricane Iniki, which economically devastated the island in 1992. Kauai Food Bank moved beyond feeding the hungry and concentrated on identifying and addressing the causes of hunger in the community. Project coordinators applied the three year grant to teach residents how to grow and sell their own food, providing an economic foothold in the community. The produce grown by the residents supplied local businesses under the label Kauai Fresh.

Since its inception, the Kauai Food Bank generated and returned a total of \$2 million back to the local community. It is now estimated that the island grows more than 20 percent of their produce, with the hope to reduce their dependence on imported goods to less than 50 percent in the future. In addition, the Food Bank promotes community health by focusing on diet-related education courses.

To learn more about the Community Food Project program and to read additional success stories visit the CSREES Website at <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/funding/cfp/cfp.html>. For additional information about the Kauai Food Bank, visit the link <http://www.kauaifoodbank.org/>.



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