

## **“Emery Memorial Kids Garden”**

Built in 2008 and run by non-profit organization “Growing Hope Together”  
(Director: Laura E. Smith)

*With grant assistance from United Way Youth Philanthropic Group and the Community  
Foundation of Tompkins County*

### **General Overview and Yearly Plan**

#### **Key Principles:**

This is primarily a teaching garden, whose primary purpose is to engage the youth in the elementary school in the concept of raising fresh produce for themselves and their families. Located in front of the school, it is a show garden in the sense that it should be aesthetically pleasing, neat, and tidy.

Types of plants that have been grown: herbs, spinach, Swiss chard, kale, tomatoes, carrots, lettuces, cucumbers, peppers, squash, broccoli, cauliflower, peas, beans, corn, and tomatillos. Flowers are grown around the outside for natural insect protection and to make the garden more attractive.

There are generally 6 – 8 activities per year with the children in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade:

- September/October: Scavenger Hunt with leftovers from the garden
- Winter:
  - Connections between culture
  - Connections with the country of Kenya
  - Planning activity – focus on local foods and help children identify what they would like to plant
- April:
  - Start plants in the classroom
  - Rick Ketchum brings over grow carts and seeds, trays, and soil need to be purchased
  - Seedlings at the CU greenhouse are started
- May:
  - Garden is prepped for planting
  - Transplant seedlings to the outside garden
- June: Salad party – children and teachers eat what’s ready from the garden
- Summer:
  - Teaching garden for summer recreation program with a special camp counselor that has traditionally been paid with grant money.
- Summer/Fall: extra food donated to the Newfield food pantry