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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Harvest Times at Temple Adat Shalom

This past weekend, a team of volunteers finished picking 450 pounds of tomatoes, squash and corn from the Temple Adat Shalom (www.adatshalom.com) vegetable garden.

Sadly, the previously planted peas had been devoured by irreligious gophers. Nothing was left for these intrepid gardeners but to prepare the beds for a winter harvest.

Planted in 2012 with the combined help of Netafim, Hawthorne's Feed, Kelloggs Soil, and Sunshine Care in what was an open field in Poway, the garden is the culmination of a vision by TAS spiritual leader Rabbi David Castiglione. To date over 1,500 lbs. of fresh vegetables have been harvested and distributed to local families in need.

"We saw so many people going hungry in North County and felt it was our obligation to do more than we were already committed to," says Rabbi Castiglione of the decision to plant the garden.

He continues; "We coordinated with Interfaith Community Services, determining that growing tomatoes would not only be nutritious, but that fresh tomatoes were one of those items that typically disappears from the diet when money gets tight."

In addition to helping to feed dozens of area families, developing and maintaining the garden has had the added benefit of increasing volunteer participation of 25 men, women, and teenagers, including numerous students from Abraxas High School. "Members of the Adat Shalom family are dedicated to improving life throughout North County, regardless of religion, politics, or geography," observes project organizer Gail Cohen.

"We found a small plot of land that we felt could be put to better use than just lying fallow, and everyone is benefitting from our decision to put that piece of land to work," she says.

Notes Rabbi Castiglione: "I'd encourage every business, every non-profit, and every faith center to find ways to look outside themselves and find ways to give back to the community."



Temple Adat Shalom's bumper crop promises to cheer up many North County dinner tables

A little land, a little sweat, and a little TLC has turned an empty field into a wealth of fresh vegetables

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