



PRESS RELEASE

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School Launches Sustainable Water-Saving Vertical Farm

Students can learn to grow dinner in 3.4 square feet.

NEWPORT BEACH, California – August 17, 2015 – When a California parishioner learned that her former high school, Ramona Convent Secondary School in Alhambra, CA was establishing a sustainable farm, she supported an effort to teach students to be good stewards of God’s creation and learn to grow healthy food while saving water. As a result, five hydroponic food gardening units, which use up to 90% less water through a water recycling system, were donated to Ramona. The Vertical Victory Garden can grow 24 edible plants in 3.4 square feet outdoors or indoors near a well-lighted window. The Solar Garden recycles water through solar power. Both systems are suited for home gardens, schools and commercial use.

These innovative systems were developed by Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Alan Smith, Founder, Aloha Urban Farming Company. Three of the Aloha gardens were donated by Knights of Columbus District Deputy/Vice President, Jim Brucken, and past Grand Knight, Ted Barry. The systems were presented to Ramona’s President, Sister Kathleen Callaway. Smith provided hydroponic training for the students. “This initiative launched our [School Farm and Garden Program](#),” Smith said.

Bell Gardens High School's Green Lead program was also the recipient of the Vertical Victory Garden through Aloha’s school program. Students are now growing their own vegetables and herbs.

By combining soilless hydroponics and space-saving technology, the Aloha garden systems recycle 100% of the water used. California’s drought is the driving force behind this concept.

“Aloha Urban Farming is dedicated to giving back to the community and to do our part to eradicate hunger, one vegetable at a time. We want everyone to have access to nutrient-rich foods. My mission is to teach people how simple and economical it is to feed their families in a healthy, environmentally responsible way. My vision is that parents and teachers will nurture children to grow their dinner while saving water,” reflected Smith.

“I envision establishing a network with fellow Knights to reach out to schools, especially those in underserved areas, to expand this program. Vertical Victory Garden users and supporters are invited to contribute to the program either through covering the cost of a garden or making a financial contribution to an ongoing fund to place gardens in schools,” said Smith.

To learn more about how to help give a garden to a school, parents, teachers, Knights and others are invited to contact us at www.AlohaUrbanFarming.com or info@AlohaUrbanFarming.com.



Alan Smith, Aloha Urban Farming, and Ramona’s former Alumnae Association’s president, Euphemia Rybicki (seated), presented solar-powered, water-recycling garden systems to Ramona Convent School President, Sister Kathleen Callaway. Students can grow healthy food while recycling water on Ramona’s sustainable farm.



Students in Bell Gardens High School's Green Lead program are now growing their own vegetables with the Vertical Victory Garden through the Aloha School Farm and Garden Program.