



All Things Ignatian



The BlueJay Community Garden



Dr. Dilly and students, Spring 2013

Research Question

The students in Dr. Dilly's Qualitative Research Methods class researched this question: "How can Creighton University develop a sustainable collaborative community garden project with our Gifford Park neighbors? They developed the project by working with community partners.

Community Partners

- * Lennis Pederson, Facilities, gave the group a vacant lot on the corner of 32nd and Webster Street
- * Jessica Haller, Creighton's horticulturalist, and John Swede provided advice, tillage of border flower beds, and water. They also provided knowledge of the gorgeous northern Catalpa tree on the property that flowers in May.
- * Safety Director John Baxter tested the soil to be sure it was safe and provided covered water barrels that conformed to safety standards.
- * The Gifford Park Community Association provided expertise, friendship, and further partner contacts.
- * Laura Weiss, employment and education coordinator at the Southern Sudan Community Association coordinated the refugees.
- * The Bhutanese refugees are actually culturally Nepalese who were relocated to Bhutan before they came to Omaha. They are a linguistic and cultural minority group.
- * Andy Waltke, greenhouse coordinator provided expertise and shared space in the greenhouse for seedlings and class projects.
- * Barbara Braden, Creighton alumnus, donated start up funds.
- * Mutual of Omaha awarded a grant to the students.



Weiss

Action Research

The qualitative research methods course engages in action research which connects with Ignatian pedagogy in the following ways. Action research develops the powers of reflective thought, discussion, decision, and action by ordinary people in democratic processes. It embraces empowerment and emancipation of peoples seeking to improve their social situations and solve common problems. Researches form social partnerships in order to collaborate with participants. All individuals involved in the study are contributors to problem solving endeavors.

Ignatian Pedagogy

Action research respects and appreciates the unique contributions of others in advancing a greater good. It identifies with the needs of the poor and marginalized, in this case, the refugee gardeners. It prepares students to become agents for social change through acquiring the practices of reflection and discernment. It seeks God in all things through awareness of beauty, and encounter with the divine, and recognition of God's action in the results of making good choices.



Man Maya Gurung, center, and Pbul Maya Gurung water plants. Photo courtesy of the Omaha World Herald, August 31, 2013, Mark Davis, Photographer



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