



Whatcom County

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION

Master Gardener Special Project Report



In 2016, the Whatcom County Master Gardener Program had great success. In particular, our newest project of installing a rehab garden at our local hospital. Peace Health St. Joseph Hospital staff in the head injury and stroke recovery unit reached out to our program looking for expertise in visioning and creating a rehab garden on hospital campus. This request activated the newest members of our program. Three interns in the 2016 class jumped at this opportunity. They coordinated with hospital staff, researched most effective structures and layout, worked with local vendors and connected with a local builder to install footing to the garden which needed precision for wheelchair access.

“Our hope is that the garden brings hope and soothing to patients for years to come.”

- Heather Ludwig, Recreational Therapist - St. Joseph Hospital

We started with a small patch of sod in early Spring 2016, we worked with the risk management staff and the therapists. As Master Gardeners we let the professionals do the hardscape. The WSU Master Gardener Volunteer team on this project are, Erin Moore, Bonnie LeVan and Linda Boblett. They provided leadership, plant and maintenance planning, installation and training of staff. Bonnie's husband built the beautiful bench with arbor. The early summer garden dedication was attended by 25 hospital staff and families enjoy it any weather.



The garden is designed for use by patients in speech, occupational, physical therapies. Hospital staff sees the garden as a place to increase mobility, stamina, strength, balance and motor skills. Getting outside reduces stress and depression. Health and wellness for adults with disabilities. These raised beds are wheelchair accessible.



Special thanks to the local businesses who donated materials, talented people and St. Joseph Medical Center Foundation.



A-1 BUILDERS

NORTHSTAR
Stone & Landscape Supply



PeaceHealth
St. Joseph Medical Center



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L to R: Heather Ludwig, MGs Bonnie LeVan, Linda Boblett, Erin Moore, Beth Chisholm