

## About Us

Mesa Harmony Garden was founded in July 2010, with the dream of turning an unused piece of land belonging to the Holy Cross church into a source of nutritious food for some of the more needy individuals and families in the Santa Barbara area. Our vision for the garden is to create and maintain a *food forest*:

- as a community resource serving residents in need through the Santa Barbara Foodbank Backyard Bounty program;
- as a living educational resource, and a demonstration of Permaculture and Organic principles applied to sustainable urban food production;
- to help build self-reliance and a resilient local community.

*Food forests* apply the principles of Permaculture, a design science rooted in the observation of nature, to create self-sustaining food systems. By building rich and healthy soil, capturing and retaining rainwater, and planting polycultures of mutually supportive plants, we can eventually reduce the level of inputs to a minimum. All our food will be pesticide and chemical free.

As well as producing food, we see the Garden as a tremendous educational resource: for local schools, college students and community members. By visiting the garden, and participating in its growth and development, we believe that young and old alike can learn the joy of growing and sharing their own food. These activities bring people together in a spirit of cooperation and help to build healthy, resilient communities.

We broke ground in October 2010, in preparation for the delivery of our first 85 fruit trees, courtesy of the FoodBank and a grant from LRQA. With this early boost, and the help of our other generous donors, we have now planted well over 100 fruit trees, grapes, bananas and many other food-producing plants.

This is a community project, and everyone is welcome to join us for our regular volunteer days (see below). We often have special events and classes, and you are welcome to come and join us: whether to assist in maintaining the grounds, offering ideas or to just come take a look around. Every first Saturday, we team up with Mesa Neighborhood Exchange to share our backyard surpluses.

With our first harvest growing before our eyes, we look forward to this bounty being collected and distributed by the FoodBank and other organizations.

**Volunteer days**  
**First Saturdays, 9am – 12:30**  
**Third Fridays, 1pm – 5pm**  
*Join us in creating our neighborhood food forest on the Mesa*  
**June 2<sup>nd</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup>, July 7<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, August 4<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>...**  
**Corner of Meigs Road and Dolores Drive.**

For more about the garden, and to join our email contact list:

[www.mesaharmonygarden.org](http://www.mesaharmonygarden.org)

Please support our work by volunteering, or by sending donations (we're a 501(c)3 nonprofit) to:  
*Mesa Harmony Garden, c/o Holy Cross Church, 1740 Cliff Drive, Santa Barbara, CA 93109*