



COMAL COUNTY

PUBLIC INFORMATION

Paul A. Anthony · 830-221-1110 · anthop@co.comal.tx.us

Contact:

Troy Luepke, Extension Agent, agriculture and natural resources
830.620.3440
luepkt@co.comal.tx.us

Master Gardeners donate record amount to local food banks

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NEW BRAUNFELS — Comal County’s Master Gardeners have donated a record 6,100 pounds and counting of produce to area food banks in 2017.

The total shatters last year’s record of about 5,200 pounds, said Sam Norris, who coordinates the efforts of the Comal Master Gardeners, a group whose members volunteer their time growing food in the demonstration garden at the Comal County office of the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service.

The Master Gardeners donate to five area food banks – two in New Braunfels, and one each in Bulverde, Spring Branch and Canyon Lake.

“Most of these smaller food banks do not get fresh produce, so this is a big help for the people they serve,” Norris said. “It’s a great feeling to be able to do so much for fellow Comal County residents in need.”

Master Gardeners volunteer in the Extension Office garden three days each week, and donate food as it’s ready to pick, usually every week, Norris said. Donations range in size from 5-10 pounds up to 100 pounds or more. Produce grown in the garden includes tomatoes, potatoes, carrots, squash and much more.

Comal County provides space for the garden as well as office services for the gardeners, said Troy Luepke, extension agent for agriculture and natural resources. The garden was established in 2011, and since then the Master Gardeners have provided over 24,000 pounds of produce for local food banks.

“Part of our mission is to educate the community on the fun and importance of growing your own food, and the Master Gardeners are a perfect fit with that,” Luepke said. “We’re proud to help them provide food to so many county residents.”

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Comal County Public Information Office

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anthop@co.comal.tx.us

www.comalcountytexas.com