



West Virginia Garden Therapy Award



WVGC GARDEN THERAPY AWARD

Donor: WVGC! A \$50 cash award to a garden club or clubs for outstanding garden therapy work that benefits the physically or learning challenged, residents in nursing homes, schools, prisons, low-income housing, cancer centers etc., including barrier-free gardens, accessible gardening, community gardens, or meditation gardens. The goal of the project should be to increase awareness and give hope. (NGC G-3) (SAR 6, 7)

South Atlantic Region Awards

#6 GARDEN THERAPY: HEALING GARDEN AWARD

\$25 Cash Award to a club, council or group of clubs having the most outstanding garden therapy project in which a Healing Garden is an integral part. Projects using plant materials working with handicapped or elderly persons in institutions or organized care programs for nursing homes, etc. Evidence must show handicapped or elderly persons involved in the garden. (If not allowed, please have documentation from the facility.)

#7 GARDEN THERAPY: HORTICULTURE GARDEN AWARD

\$25 Cash Award to a club reporting the most outstanding program establishing a garden to benefit the physically or learning challenged, in nursing homes, schools, prisons, low income housing, Habitat for Humanity, etc. Includes barrier-free gardens, accessible gardens, meditation gardens at a nursing home, hospital, etc.

National Garden Club Awards

G-3 THERAPY GARDENS Grand Prize (selected from First Place category winners): Grand Prize Certificate with gold seal + \$100. (Sponsorship available) Given for the establishment or restoration of a garden or gardens to benefit the physically or learning challenged, residents in nursing homes, schools, prisons, low-income housing, cancer centers, etc. by an NGC or IA Club. Includes barrier-free gardens, accessible gardening, community gardens, meditation gardens at a hospital, etc. The goal of these gardens can also be to increase awareness or to give hope. 1. Garden Club (NGC or IA): Small Medium Large 2.





West Virginia Garden Therapy Award

The WV Garden Club has established a \$50 cash award to recognize clubs that engage in garden activities to benefit those with disabilities or disadvantages of some type. Garden Therapy is defined as the use of plants and plant-related activities to enhance the health and wellness of garden club members and/or their communities.

The projects may be designed to bring hope for the future, awareness of an issue, or health and wellness to members of the community. They may also be designed to provide social interactions for people with limited opportunities. Teaching children about the valuable role of nature/gardening in health and happiness could be a goal.

Projects can be large projects, such as designing and creating an accessible community garden or building/restoring a memorial garden honoring victims of an illness or event. Or, they can be smaller scale projects, such as planting an herb garden with shut-ins or creating flower arrangements for young, disadvantaged prom attendees.

The key to designing a garden therapy project is to identify a need within your community. Once you see a need, explore ways gardening can be used to help meet that need. Some garden therapy ideas are posted on the WVGC web page under the RESOURCES tab. However, the best project will be one that fits your club members and your community. If you are interested in designing a garden therapy project, please reach out to Garden Therapy Chair Sheila Rose, at srose796@yahoo.com. The WVGC web page has directions on how to apply for the award under the AWARDS tab.

<https://wvgardenclub.com/>

Potential Populations for Garden Therapy

Nursing homes Low-income housing Cancer centers
Prisons/jails Skilled nursing Day Care/After School programs
Victims of Crimes or Disasters Summer camps Domestic violence shelters
Homeless shelters Drug court programs, teen or adult Group homes
Foster care facilities Church groups Veterans' Centers Specialized schools
Senior Centers Disabled adult day programs/Facilities Church groups
Shut-ins Bereaved of any age Schools

