

YMCA of the Inland Northwest

Angela Hanni
Hunger Initiatives Coordinator

While participating in Power Up Your Program, Angela used the YMCA's onsite garden and greenhouse to provide meaningful opportunities for students and the surrounding community. During the year, she grew a variety of vegetables, fruits, and herbs, many of which were incorporated into Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) meals and snacks.

Students not only learned about the origins and benefits of fresh food, but also gained hands-on planting and harvesting experiences. Angela also completed an intensive Junior Master Gardener training, which will increase opportunities for student gardening education in the future!



In addition to her work with students, Angela involved members of the refugee community by gathering their feedback on what culturally significant crops she could grow onsite. This fall, she plans to invite community members into the kitchen to share their recipes and traditional cooking methods using harvested foods. The goal is to add these dishes to the CACFP menu, increasing cultural inclusivity and introducing students to new flavors!

Project Highlights

- Used onsite greenhouse and garden in CACFP Afterschool Meal Program educational activities
- Incorporated fresh herbs, veggies and fruits in the CACFP menu
- Obtained certification to lead Junior Master Gardener Program
- Solicited input from members of local refugee community on culturally significant crops to grow
- Plans to work with these community members to put new culturally inclusive menu items on the CACFP menu in the fall.

