



## PROFILES

*Karen Kable*

### We Give What We Can

At the Civic Garden Center we're grateful for the many people who give so generously to help support our work. But few donors have touched our hearts in the way Quinn Gulley has. You see, Quinn is six years old, and when he recently sent in his second donation, we decided it was time to learn more about our youngest donor!

Quinn and his parents and younger sister live in the Pendleton neighborhood in Over the Rhine. They would walk by the Pendleton Children's Garden several times a day and Quinn was always curious about what was going on there. Established in 1999 as a Children's Garden (previously used as an adult community garden), the Pendleton Children's Garden is currently managed and maintained by Civic Garden Center staff. The garden contains numerous raised vegetable and theme beds and bordering flower gardens that are cooperatively planted, maintained and harvested by the Summer Sprouts gardeners, the Civic Garden Center's summer youth education program.

After learning more about the garden and the Sprouts program, Quinn's mom enrolled him in the program last summer. She tells us that Quinn was thrilled to finally be able to "farm" and play in the garden. And, after growing a rainbow beet that he got to grill and eat, she said beets became his favorite vegetable. For Quinn, being able to learn about growing food in the garden tied in nicely with what he's learning about food at the New School Montessori in Avondale.

Quinn is participating in our Summer Sprouts program again this year. We asked him what he likes most about gardening and he told us that he loves planting seeds and watching them grow and he liked learning about using food scraps to make compost. (He thinks seeds do best when planted in a combination of worm-made and human-made compost.) He also really enjoyed the gimbap they made for lunch one day using carrots and peppers from the garden. (Quinn's mom added that they all love Mary Dudley, our youth education coordinator!)

We've all heard the expression "We give what we can, when we can" and clearly Quinn's parents have thoughtfully developed a caring child who takes real pride in being part of his neighborhood. When Quinn wanted to sell water balloons at last summer's Danger Wheel (a downhill Big Wheel race for adults now in its third year in Pendleton), his mom suspected he was more interested in pelting the racers with the balloons than anything else. She agreed to let him sell balloons but encouraged him to think about donating some of the money to a good cause.

Quinn made \$20 selling those water balloons. One day after the race, as they were walking by the garden, Quinn announced that he wanted to give half of the money to the garden. His mom helped him mail in his donation to the Civic Garden Center. As many of you already know, any donation to the Civic Garden Center lands you on our mailing list for THE Plant Sale, and



QUINN GULLEY

Quinn was quite surprised when an invitation, addressed only to him, arrived in the mail. Quinn made his second donation to the Civic Garden Center shortly after receiving the invitation.

Quinn reminds us that children know what it's like to be happy with the simple things in life. We love that Quinn loves the garden and rocks (he has an uncle that's a geologist) and exploring his neighborhood and striped beets. He already understands the feeling one gets when connecting with something that is real.

Rachel Carson often said that a child's positive connection to nature depends on two things: special places and special people. We're committed to being a special place for eternally curious and very special people like Quinn Gulley and his lovely family.