



VISTA MATTERS

-July 2024-

Special Giving Edition

VISTA Gardens provides a way for people to gain vision around how a native organic garden could look and be maintained. We don't just “talk the talk”; we “walk the walk.” That is why I support VISTA. - Janet Stanko

Every member of the VISTA Garden community plays a crucial role in advancing our mission, and we are grateful to our members and volunteers who give time and energy to VISTA, and to those who donate money and goods to help us initiate and complete projects.

In 2023-2024, dues and donations enabled us to repair and replace the wood sides and ends of many beds, provide lobster compost to each bed, distribute cover crop seeds to all our gardeners, acquire tools and equipment, pay for our required insurances and services, and build new mulch and soil concrete bins.

“My wife and I support VISTA Gardens because today it is one slice of Eden where we can find inner peace in our topsy turvy world. More than growing plants, we grow friendships with people of every age and philosophy whose guiding motivation is embracing nature and helping one another.” -Richard Birnholz

VISTA's membership year begins on August 1, which means that this month you will receive a notice to complete your annual membership form and submit your dues payment. The form also includes an opportunity for you to donate an additional contribution. As you reflect on what this garden means to you, we will appreciate your considering a financial gift to VISTA.

This year we have an exciting opportunity that can magnify the impact of your generosity. Two donor families, Diana and Mohan Rao and Jennifer Grebenschikoff and David Kirschman, are matching donations in July and August up to \$500. If you give

\$25, it turns into a \$50 donation! For every dollar you donate, they will match a dollar up to \$500.

We urge you to come forward and support VISTA Gardens with a gift of money or a donation of items on our Wish List, below. From the smallest donation to the largest gift, all funds and in-kind gifts help VISTA Gardens continue to thrive and flourish.

Honor someone

Want to give a gift with impact? Looking for a unique gift for the person “who has everything,” or for the folks who say, “Don’t give me anything.” A donation to VISTA in honor of that person can be the ideal way to give a meaningful gift.

Sponsor someone

Better yet, treat those special people in your life to a VISTA Social Membership, which brings with it a year of exploration, discovery, fun, and memory-making while supporting VISTA’s mission to protect and sustain our natural environment.

Share the wealth

If you're writing a check or making an online donation to VISTA, please remember that we are a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. Especially if you’re having a high-income year, there may be opportunities that you haven’t yet taken full advantage of to reduce your taxable income. Check with your financial advisor on how a financial gift to VISTA can work for you.

“I chose VISTA Gardens for my Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) because of the garden’s multigenerational and educational activities. I also wanted to leave a legacy of beauty to the community for many years to come.” -Ibby Bailey

For those of you with a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), we hope you will donate to VISTA Gardens as part of this year’s RMD from your IRA. A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity like VISTA Gardens. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your RMDs for the year, and can be done anytime during the year. Check with your financial advisor about this convenient and tax-saving method of giving.

For All Mailed Donations

Be sure to send the funds to our Treasurer: VISTA Gardens c/o 4104 Water Oaks Lane Tampa FL 33618 (VISTA does not receive mail at the garden’s location.)

For All Hand-Delivered Donations

Kindly place your check in the black mailbox in the shed.

For Credit Card and PayPal

You can use the DONATION button in the yellow box on VISTA’s website home page: <https://www.vistagardentampa.org/>

If you wish to purchase items on the Wish List below, please contact **Jennifer Grebenschikoff** to arrange.

VISTA Gardens 2024 WISH LIST

For VISTA:

- Every social and seasonal member to regularly volunteer time on a committee (invaluable)
- All seasonal members to introduce themselves to their VISTA neighbors (priceless)

For the pond:

- Organic Coco Coir from Urban Roots (\$15 per block)
- Wind chimes to discourage wading birds (\$35)
- Fake alligator head to discourage eating birds (\$20)

For the education programs:

- 16 oz. Propane Fuel Tank for Camping Stove for the Tea in the Garden events (2-pack for \$25.00)

For the shed:

- Durable hand pruners (\$100 for 3-4)
- Non-rusting garden scissors (\$100 for 6)

For the garden:

- Heavy-duty watering hoses (\$200 for 4)

For the compost:

- Build a lab to test compost for pH and chemical composition (\$1000)

For the herb garden:

- 50 ft garden hose (\$40)
- Sturdy garden hose stand (\$50)

For the pavilion:

- Battery/solar powered portable fans (\$500)
- Gutters to divert rain water (\$450)

For the irrigation system:

- Replacement well pump (\$3,500)

For the garden:

- Replacement wood for raised beds (\$1,000)
- Tree trimming (\$2,000)

For the wildflower garden:

- Books on ecological gardening for the Little Free Library (\$15 each)

For the woodland area:

- Concrete bench (\$80)

Thank you for any support and service you are able to give. Because of

incredible donors and volunteers like you, VISTA Gardens continues to grow.

VISTA Gardens is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.
Federal ID # 26-2532379.

Every donation, no matter the size, makes a difference and helps us achieve our goals!

Click here to submit your photos
and stories for future editions of VISTA
Matters.

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