



# VISTA MATTERS

-December Edition -

**Only Once a Year Do We Ask ...**

As 2023 comes to an end, VISTA Gardens thanks you, our members, for all your support this year. Many of you have donated money and goods to help us initiate and complete projects in many areas of our garden. As you reflect on your 2023 year-end philanthropic plans, we will appreciate your considering a gift to VISTA.

For example, without your dues and donations, we wouldn't have been able to repair and replace the wood sides and ends of many beds, provide bags of lobster compost to each bed, distribute cover crop seeds to all our gardeners, acquire the many shed tools and equipment that all of us use every time we are working in the garden, nor pay for our required insurances and licenses.

Now, as we approach the joyous celebrations of December and the New Year, 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 will help VISTA Gardens continue to thrive and flourish.

Want to give a gift with impact? Or, maybe you are 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.

Better yet, treat those special people in your life to a VISTA 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.

If you're writing checks or making online donations to your favorite charities, please remember that VISTA is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization. Especially if you've had 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.

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. 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 accept 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 [jengreb@gmail.com](mailto:jengreb@gmail.com) 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)

- River rock - larger stone size (\$240)

For the education programs:

- 16 oz. Propane Fuel Tank for Camping Stove for the spring Tea in the Garden event (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)

For the irrigation system:

- Replacement well pump (\$3,500)

For the garden beds:

- Replacement wood (\$1,000)

For the wildflower garden:

- Bird house, pole, and baffle (\$150)
- 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 # 23-2532379.

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

**VISTA Gardens**  
13572 South Village Drive  
Tampa, Florida 33618

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