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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Community garden open for 2015 season

**Ravena, N.Y.** – Members of the community are invited to grow their own fruits and vegetables this summer at the Linda Civill Community Garden in Faith Plaza. The garden is open and beds are still available. The garden is coordinated by Hope Full Life Center and STARS Intergeren, local not-for-profit organizations.

The garden gives people an opportunity to experiment with gardening and help the needy too. Half of all fruits and vegetables grown in the garden will benefit Helping Harvest, Hope Full Life Center's food assistance program for low-income individuals and families. No experience is needed to participate; skilled gardeners will be on hand to answer questions throughout the growing season.

All materials needed for the garden, including the raised beds, soil, water, and tools will be provided at no cost. Gardeners may be required to provide starter plants or seeds for their 4' x 8' bed.

The garden was launched in 2014 and is named in memory of long-time area resident Linda Civill who was an avid gardener and volunteer at many of Ravena's charities, including Helping Harvest.

"We have struggled to get fresh produce on Helping Harvest's shelves and the community garden offered a regular supply of tomatoes, green peppers, eggplants and other vegetables," said Rebecca Flach, executive director of Hope Full Life Center, a community organization that serves the needy through a variety of retail programs. "We learned a lot last year about what works and what doesn't in this garden and anticipate this year's crop will be even better."

The business community has been very supportive of the garden again in 2015. Persico True Value Hardware donated hose, starter plants and other supplies. The Ravena Fire Department will fill the garden's water barrels weekly. Additional water will be supplied by Crossroads Ford. Hope Full Life Center and STARS Intergeren are grateful for this support.

"Seeing the success of the garden last year makes us even more willing to lend support again this year," said Linda Bruno, executive director of STARS Intergeren. "A garden is the perfect place to draw generations together! The STARS Board of Directors and I are only too happy to be a small part this community project. A grant from the Stewart's Foundation allows us to offer this support."

(MORE)

Residents who have a garden of their own, but still want to help, are welcome to participate. Other community groups are also invited to assist. Weeding, watering and other garden tasks require lots of volunteer support. For more information about the community garden visit [HopeFullLifeCenter.org](http://HopeFullLifeCenter.org) or call (518) 756-9091.

**About Hope Full Life Center, Inc.**

Hope Full Life Center helps the needy in our community and around the world through Helping Harvest, a food assistance program; Gracefully Chic Boutique, a gently used clothing shop; Peace of Home, which sells affordable furniture and home décor; and Cross Culture Market, an international program that sells largely fair trade products to help poor, abused and forgotten people around the world ([crossculturemarket.org](http://crossculturemarket.org)). Visit [HopeFullLifeCenter.org](http://HopeFullLifeCenter.org) or learn more about us on Facebook.

**About STARS Intergen**

STARS Intergen strives to enrich the lives of students and older adults through quality programs that benefit all participants and the community as a whole. Learn more about them at [starsintergen.org](http://starsintergen.org).

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