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NEWS RELEASE

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release

(For immediate

A TRUE COMMUNITY EFFORT AT FMC

LANCASTER, Ohio (December 30, 2008) – Volunteers from the OSU Extension's Master Gardener Program have went above and beyond taking care of the plants in the Fairfield Medical Center Tranquility Garden located on the second floor. Even on Christmas Eve they were hard at work making sure the garden looked nice for patients, family members, and employees during the holidays. "With the help of Santa and



his elves, we are certainly getting the job done," said Connie Smith, Master Gardener and Program Assistant with OSU Extension. Connie was referring to Brian Myers, a student with the Fairfield County MRDD Program, as well as his sister, Sarah Myers and brother, John Myers. Brian has been working on the FMC Tranquility Garden project since last summer, devoting his time weekly to ensure that the plants are well cared for. His sister, Sarah Myers, commented, "Brian takes care of the plants here on a regular basis and is really dedicated, I am glad I could come out and help him, especially so the patients and employees can come to the garden

during the holidays to relax and get away." When asked how much of an impact this project has had on Brian he said, "I enjoy donating my time to such a good cause, I feel like I make a difference." Brian is currently focusing on a career in Gardening and has done so as a result of this experience.



Funding for this project comes from donations to the Fairfield Medical Center Foundation from generous members in our community and surrounding communities. Connie Smith is a key piece in this project due to her willingness to partner with FMC, "Our goal is to see this be a community effort, we are pleased to have a partnership with the hospital and more importantly to give Brian something to look forward to." Connie was working right

alongside of Brian, Sarah, and John on Christmas Eve.

Ricki Chenault, Fairfield Medical Center Foundation Director, has been involved with this project from the very start and is proud of what Brian and other volunteers from the OSU Extension Master Gardener Program have achieved. "It is so nice to walk into the garden and see all the hard work that has been put into this project. I was shocked to find out that even on a holiday, Connie, Brian, Sarah, and John, dropped everything to come over and make sure the plants are well cared for. They certainly went above and beyond, just like the people that made donations to make the Tranquility Garden possible. It is great to see it all come together so well, what a true community effort."

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