

## **Plant-A-Row, Ottawa Community Garden**

Plant a Row (PAR) is a national initiative that encourages gardeners to donate fresh produce to food pantries in their local communities. PAR is an ongoing project in LaSalle County where Master Gardeners have several beds located at the Ottawa Community Garden. Each year, Master Gardeners plant and harvest a variety of vegetables and donate them to the Community Food Basket Food Pantry in Ottawa, and other nearby LaSalle County food pantries. Additionally, the Master Gardener Program partnered with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education (SNAP-Ed) Program and the 4-H Program on the 2018 Growing Illinois Food Access Allocation (GIFAA) Grant awarded to the Extension Unit in the Fall of 2017. This project expanded the garden by adding four raised beds. On average, the garden yields an excess of 10,000 pounds of donated produce yearly.



**Top left:** A Master Gardener volunteer tends the Community Garden in Ottawa for the Plant-A-Row Project.

**Top right:** A Master Gardener volunteer harvests tomatoes for donation.

**Bottom:** A view of the four raised beds installed using the GIFAA Grant.