Dear

Greetings from the Growing Partners of Southwest Colorado! Growing Partners is a partnership between five non-profit and service organizations dedicated to implementing a sustainable local food program that reaches all incomes, ages and cultures. In 2005, we were awarded a grant to conduct a community food assessment of La Plata County.

Community food assessments can be excellent tools for educating the public on food-related issues, as well as improving and creating community food projects. The purpose of this assessment is to identify the current needs and resources of the local food system, address the specific needs of underserved populations in accessing healthy food, and to encourage community participation in the planning and evaluation phases of the assessment. It will profile the factors affecting our current food system including economic, cultural and environmental factors and agricultural history. Populations profiled include youth and schools, food producers, and underserved populations, including lower income families, older adults, and people with physical and/or mental limitations. Community support and participation is vital to the success of the project.

Attached is a program survey to help provide us with a baseline of the agencies in the area that offer food related programs and/or may be interested in participating in community food projects. Your participation is valuable to the project and helps us have a broader understanding of the specific food needs and resources of our community. We appreciate your time and effort in completing the survey. Surveys can be returned to PO Box 4434, Durango 81302. If you have any questions or additional comments regarding the survey or assessment, please contact Growing Partners at 385-3980 or email us at laplatafood@yahoo.com.

Thank you,

Shari Fitzgerald
Growing Partners of Southwest Colorado
La Plata County Community Food Assessment
Agency Survey
Presented by Growing Partners of Southwest Colorado

Organization Name: ___________________________ Person(s) Completing Survey: ___________________________

Mailing Address: ___________________________ Phone Numbers: ___________________________

Date: ___________________________ Email address(es): ___________________________

Please mark or fill in the appropriate response for each question. Write N/A for any question that does not apply to your agency. If you have any questions regarding this survey please contact Growing Partners by phone at (970)385-3980 or email us at laplatafood@yahoo.com. Send completed surveys to PO Box 4434 Durango, Colorado 81302 by August 15th, 2006.

Please start by telling us about your program:

1. Organization Mission and/or Program Goal (please feel free to attach a brochure or program flyer)

2. Population Served:
   a. Number Involved: Total ( ) Adult ( ) Youth ( )
   b. Geographic/Demographic Area

3. Programs Offered:

4. What is your program’s most significant success?

5. Does your agency serve food for any of its programs? ___ YES ___ NO
   If yes, where does the food come from? Check all that apply
   _______Food Bank _______ Distributor _______ Grocery store
   _______Farm _______ Garden _______ other ( )

6. Does your agency offer any food related programs, programs that relate to food, nutrition, farming, gardening, and/or cooking? If yes, please list which programs.
7. What do you believe are the primary barriers the agency faces in trying to offer these or any other food related programs?

8. Food access and thus food security has been defined as all people having access to safe, healthy, affordable, and culturally appropriate food. Considering the population your agency serves, and the issues they may face, please indicate the importance of food access and food security as:
   - An extremely important issue that deserves to be addressed immediately
   - Moderately important that should be addressed soon
   - Important but ranks behind more pressing issues
   - Not really an issue that needs much consideration or action
   - Don’t really know, but would like to learn more

9. Considering the population/s served, please explain:
   a. Their food resources.
   b. Their food needs.

10. To better help us communicate with the community about food, please offer any recommendations for outreaching the population your agency serves, such as preferred communication style, advertising, ideal locations for outreach, etc.

11. Please describe three community food projects that would best aid the community you serve. (Some examples of community food projects include transportation services to food resources, community gardens, farmers markets, food banks, nutritional workshops and cooking classes, farm tours, gleaning projects etc.)
    1.
    2.
    3.
12. Do you currently have available space or resources to offer any of these programs? [i.e. meeting rooms, kitchen space, potential garden space: a 10 x 15 sq. feet plot, space for containers garden, courtyard]

13. Would anyone of your staff be interested in receiving training or educational materials on food, nutrition, gardening, or cooking?  

   Yes   No

14. How could Growing Partners assist and collaborate with your organization to better serve the food needs of the people your agency serves?

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If you offer food related programs, would you like your agency’s name and contact information included in the final assessment?  
Yes   No

Would you be willing to be interviewed for the food assessment?  
Yes   No

Do you have any information/research related to the food system you could provide the assessment team?  
Yes   No

Do you want to receive notices regarding the assessment and meeting times?  
Yes   No

If yes, please provide contact information: Name______________________
Phone___________________  E-mail___________________________