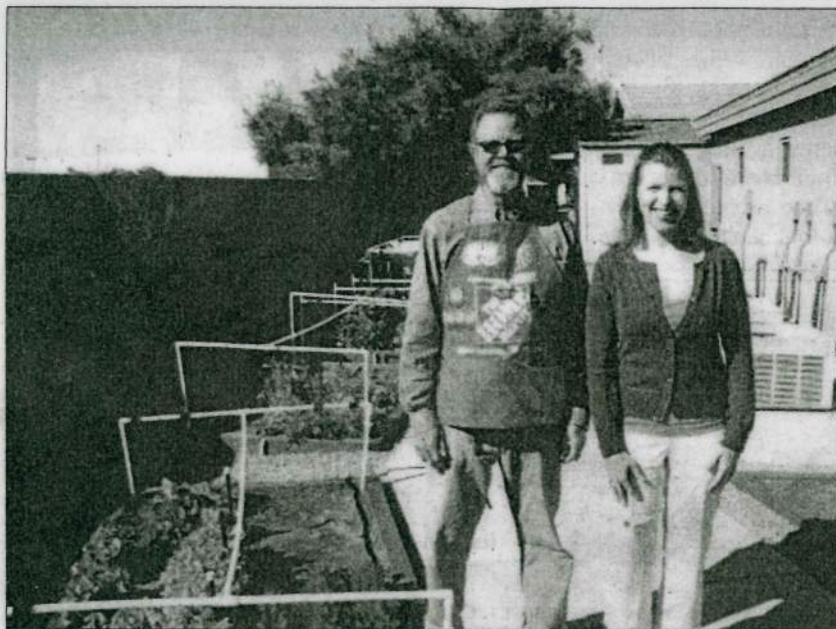


neighbors

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Submitted photos

Greg Poole and Linda Chapman teamed up to create a salad garden for her students at Challenge Charter School in Glendale. Mr. Poole, a Sun City resident, volunteered his time to teach children the basics of gardening during the school's Project Salad initiative.

Sprouts to Tout

Last fall, Linda Chapman, a 5th-grade teacher from Challenge Charter School, 5801 W. Greenbriar Drive, asked The Home Depot garden department to help her with a garden project in her classroom as she was appointed lead of Project Salad for her school.

The idea behind Project Salad would involve a schoolwide gardening venture with each of the classes planting a garden of different vegetables, watching them grow, harvesting the bounty and enjoying a wonderful salad from their efforts. School employees wanted to show students food growth from start to finish.

Unfortunately, Ms. Chapman knew very little about gardening. Fortunately for her, she had walked into The Home Depot garden department at 59th Av-

enue and Behrend Drive where Greg Poole, a Sun City resident and 10-year employee as well as a certified master gardener was happy to help.

Store manager Will Bisson not only allowed Mr. Poole to visit the school, but also donated seeds, vegetable plants and top soil to the school.

Mr. Poole visited the school and told Ms. Chapman that with a little work, he could create a garden that would help educate the children and produce some wonderful vegetables.

Over the next weeks, Mr. Poole transformed an area behind the school into a real garden. He installed a sprinkler system, added the needed soil amendments, tilled the beds and added protection from the birds and bunnies. Everything was ready for students to plant

their vegetables.

Each grade was assigned different vegetables to plant.

Mr. Poole, an accomplished gardener, was excited to show the pupils how to plant seeds and veggie plants. He made multiple trips to the school to adjust the sprinkler system and fertilize the garden throughout the months.

In March 2011, it was time for the harvest and Ms. Chapman planned a wonderful luncheon for all pupils. The students had benefited from an important hands-on experience with lots of lessons relating to science and math.

It was a labor of love for Mr. Poole and a wonderful educational activity for all at Challenge Charter School. Mr. Poole and Ms. Chapman are looking forward to next year's bountiful garden.