

# 2024 YOUTH POETRY CONTEST WINNERS

INDIANA STATE  
WINNERS



My Garden Has Vegetables to  
Spare That I Can Share -  
*Helping Fight Hunger By  
Sharing Vegetables  
From Our Garden*

The 2024 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Youth Poetry contest was open to all youth in Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade. The contest was designed to excite and encourage youth to explore their creative thoughts through poetry.

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The theme of the 2024-2025 National Garden Clubs, Inc. Youth Poetry Contest was:

### **My Garden Has Vegetables to Spare That I Can Share - Helping Fight Hunger by Sharing Vegetables From Our Garden**

Youth in Kindergarten through Twelfth Grade were invited to participate by sending their poems to their local garden club. Winning poems from each garden club were sent to the state competition. This booklet contains the Indiana state winning poems for each grade level. *Poems are printed as submitted, including grammar and spelling errors.* State winners will be sent to the National Garden Clubs, Inc. Region competition; and those winners will be sent to the national competition.

#### **The Garden Club of Indiana, Inc.**

... is a non-profit educational organization, formed in 1930, to stimulate knowledge of gardening; to aid in the protection of trees, plants and birds; and to promote civic beautification. The fundamental objectives are expanded to meet the needs of today: community beautification; roadside development; good horticultural practices; litter control; aid in the protection of trees, shrubs, wildflowers and birds; and preservation and restoration of historic sites.

**[gardenclubofindiana.org](http://gardenclubofindiana.org)**

#### **National Garden Clubs, Inc.**

... is a 501(c)(3) organization whose Mission is to provide education, resources, and national networking opportunities for its members to promote the love of gardening, floral design, and civic and environmental responsibility.

**[gardenclub.org](http://gardenclub.org)**



# Kindergarten Winner

Leo R., Crown Point, IN



## Apples

Applesauce

Pretty colors

Pick off a tree

Like the crunch they make when  
you bite into them

Eat them with peanut butter

Share them with others  
except the ones with worms,  
they go to the birds



*Special Needs*

# Kindergarten Winner

Allison M., Crown Point, IN



## Garden Fun

Water plants  
Pick tomatoes  
Watch butterflies  
Hear birds enjoying Gods food  
Sharing with others who have none





# First Grade Winner

Audrey S., Crown Point, IN



## Sharing From My Garden

I like to share tomatoes  
Because it makes me feel good.  
I like to share my flowers  
Because they smell very good.  
I like to share sweet peppers  
Because they taste very yummy in  
my tummy.



# Sixth Grade Winner

Allena R., Columbus, IN



## Harvesting hope: A bounty to share

In my garden, where dreams take flight,  
Veggies flourish, a dazzling sight.  
Tomatoes blush in the golden sun,  
Carrots peek out, their race just begun.  
Cucumbers spiral, a twisty delight,  
Peppers flaunt colors, oh what a sight!  
Spinach unfurls in a leafy parade,  
In this green haven, joy is displayed.  
Zucchini grins with its plump, sunny face,  
Filling the world with kindness and grace.  
With every harvest, my spirit takes wing,  
Sharing my bounty, oh, what joy it can bring!  
Gather around, let laughter ignite,  
With veggies aplenty, hearts feel so light.  
Hunger withers where generosity grows,  
In each vibrant bite, compassion bestows.  
So come, take a seat, let our stories flow,  
Together, we'll plant seeds of hope as we sow.  
In this garden of dreams, where love intertwines,  
A tapestry woven with magical vines.



# Seventh Grade Winner

Emma B., North Salem, IN



## Give Hunger the Boot

Sharing veggies is great fun  
To make hunger finished and done.  
If we all do our part  
To fill a belly and a heart,  
People will be happier if we help them out.  
So pitch in, and fight hunger with a shout,  
"I will help to give veggies and fruit,  
I will help to give hunger the boot!"





# Eighth Grade Winner

Vidita K., Columbus, IN

**Come to my garden, I have lots to share!**



My garden has vegetables to spare  
I have plenty and I am willing to share  
With friends, neighbors, and people who come by  
To taste the freshness from the vine

Where plump tomatoes, crunchy lettuce, and sweet corn  
Bright orange carrots, multi-colored peppers, and round green peas are born  
All grown with love and care  
To ensure no hunger or despair  
To fill bodies and nourish the soul  
With healthy fruits and vegetables that will console

So come to my garden, take what you please  
Join me in this beautiful feast  
Where we shall enjoy nature's gift  
That helps us prosper, thrive, and live



*Special Needs*

# Tenth Grade Winner

Clifton T., Portage, IN



## My Garden

I have many vegetables  
In my beautiful garden.  
I will be generous  
And share with all who are in  
need.  
You can find me at the YMCA.  
We can make you strong.  
My vegetables are free.  
Come and get all you need.



# Eleventh Grade Winner

Jerral M., Portage, IN



## Live and Help Thrive

You have heard it told,  
Live and let live.  
I will tell you now,  
Live and help thrive,  
So that the community shall never  
die!  
Be one with the drive to share.  
For each other we must care.  
With the fruits of our labor  
And the fruits of the ground,  
We extend our table to you  
With happiness abound.





## *Special Needs*

# Eleventh Grade Winner

**Caiden C., Portage, IN**



### **Garden of Giving**

In a sunny corner of my backyard,  
My garden thrives...  
Bursting with ripe tomatoes, crisp cucumbers, and leafy greens.  
Each season I plant with hope  
And now my harvest has produced more than I could ever eat alone.  
It's the perfect opportunity to share my bounty with all...  
Neighbors, friends, and anyone in need.  
With every basket of veggies passed along,  
My garden gives more than just food.  
It spreads joy, kindness, and the warmth of community.



# Twelfth Grade Winner

Jonathan D., Portage, IN



## Garden of Glory

As the garden grows, the beautiful green shows.  
The people below grow worried, with hunger forthcoming.  
But no worry, since my garden is a vast sea...  
For plenty to take and many more to feed,  
So, when the time comes to harvest, the people run out to my garden  
With friend and foe, to gallop through my garden,  
With a smile, like never seen before...





Proud members of  
National Garden Clubs, Inc.