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WELCOME TO YOUR REGIONAL GARDEN EDUCATION CENTER COURSE!

HEALTHY WORKSSM
VICTORY GARDENS SAN DIEGO
REGIONAL GARDEN EDUCATION CENTERS
GARDENING 101: HOW TO GROW YOUR OWN FOOD

Welcome to your Regional Garden Education Center course!

Victory Gardens San Diego (VGSD) is a project of San Diego Roots Sustainable Food Project. Our mission is to help people start growing their own food through collaborative garden builds, hands-on garden education and community outreach.

VGSD has helped start dozens of gardens throughout San Diego County, including several school and community gardens. VGSD offers ongoing garden education classes and has started many participants on their way toward homegrown food. VGSD garden education participants and teachers make up a growing network of gardeners that you can tap into or become a part of at anytime.

Healthy WorksSM is helping support the next phase of garden education in San Diego County. Healthy WorksSM is a program of the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA), funded by the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). In partnership with the University of California San Diego (UCSD); San Diego County Childhood Obesity Initiative, a project facilitated by Community Health Improvement Partners (CHIP); and VGSD, Healthy WorksSM is establishing community-based hubs for basic, school, and community garden education.

The Regional Garden Education Centers (RGEN) program is designed to create central establishments for the development of garden knowledge and expertise. The RGEN program is modeled after the VGSD "University of Gardening" or "U-Gardening" education courses and includes garden courses on community garden management, sustainable school gardening, and basic gardening.

VGSD is partnering with community-based organizations countywide to train and certify staff and volunteers to conduct garden education courses and establish tool lending libraries that provide local residents access to tools for garden projects in the community or at home. VGSD-certified RGEN sites offer a gathering place for residents interested in the local food movement to connect and receive hands-on garden and project planning experience. It is our hope that the RGEN sites help spark dynamic conversations between agencies and community residents on the role gardens can play in creating a healthy, more sustainable future.

We invite you to attend one or several garden courses at a RGEN site near you. Ask questions. Share garden stories and resources, and get to know neighbors with a similar interest in growing healthy communities. A formal avenue for feedback will be offered at the end of each course and ongoing feedback is also welcomed.

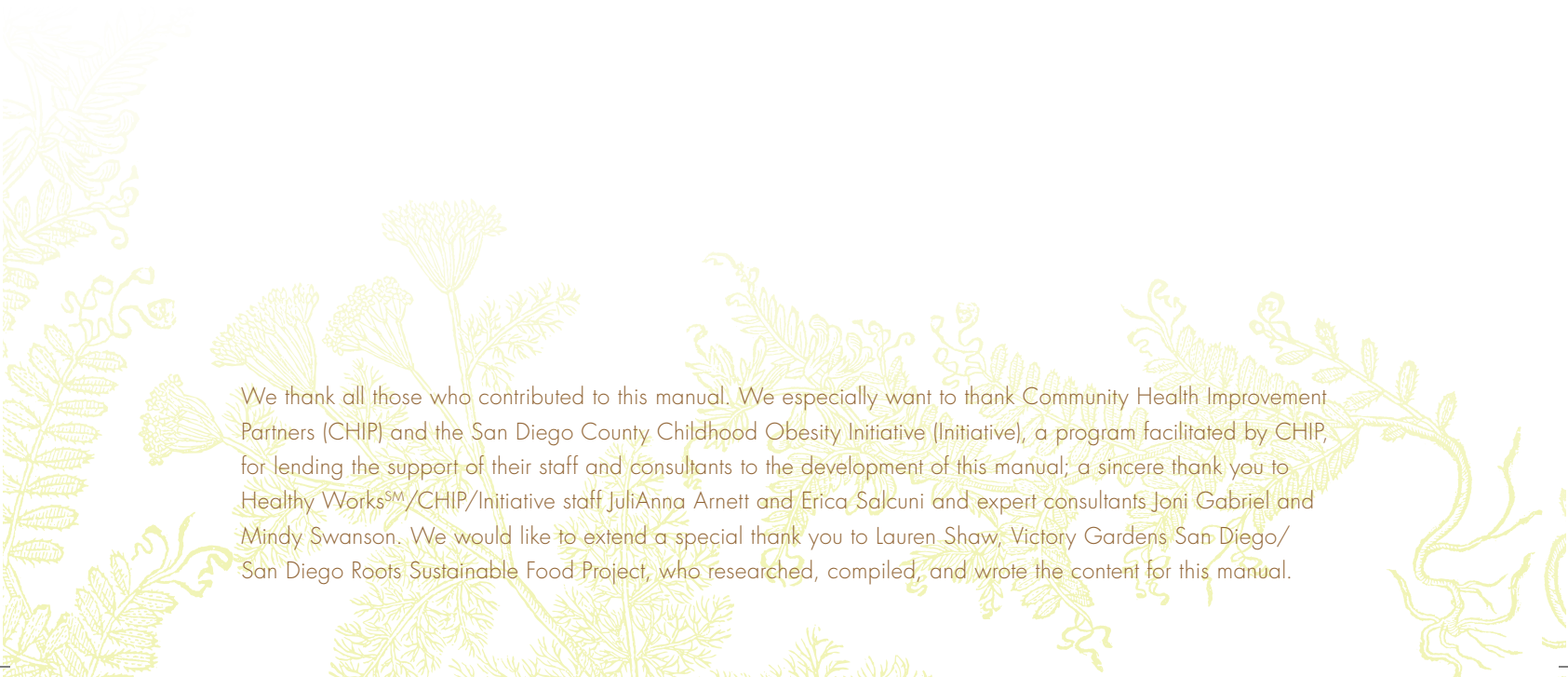
In good health,

The Regional Garden Education Center Team



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