

Rotary Club, CMAA provide fresh produce for shelter

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Garden crops were harvested at CMAA s garden at the Lowell School Street location and donated to Lowell Transitional Living Center. From left are Kennis Chanvasna Yin-Mor, CMAA; Sovanna Pou, CMAA executive director; Lowell Rotarian Patricia Witts; Andy McMahon, Lowell Transitional Living Center executive director; Jim Larkin, LTLC kitchen manager; and Lowell Rotarians Amy Pessia and Bill Garr.

LOWELL -- The Rotary Club of Lowell recently completed a project with the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association.

"Developing Healthy Lifestyles Through Gardening in the Cambodian Community" began in spring 2018, providing fresh produce and education, and bridging generations of Cambodian Americans served by the CMAA.

The Rotary Club of Lowell provided funds that were matched by the Rotary District 7910 grant program.

Lowell Rotary Club President Amy Pessia and other club members helped harvest the fresh produce that was planted and cultivated by CMAA participants.

"We are proud to be a part of this meaningful project with CMAA, and that so many people enjoyed the garden throughout the season," Pessia said. "We hope it will continue to grow and serve the community for generations to come."

CMAA Executive Director, Sovanna Pouv, was also on hand to see the culmination of the project.

"The beauty about our location in the Lower Highlands is that it is accessible to many of the community members we serve," he said. "The garden beds are such a wonderful addition to our space. Local and accessible crops that can be used for traditional Khmer and nontraditional Khmer dishes creates an opportunity to bridge the generational gap and cultural gap, thus making us a much stronger and inclusive community through locally grown food."

The carrots, bok choy and herbs were donated to Lowell Transitional Living Center, where it was used to prepare meals.