

## Community Gardens Project Puts Food on the Table in South Dallas

South Dallas citizens are literally putting healthy home-grown food on their tables due to a community project called Healthy Harvest. The missions of Healthy Harvest is to improve the quality of life of inner-city residents and reduce health disparities by providing access to healthy food alternatives through an innovative community garden network.

In recent years the South Dallas area has experienced the death of grocery stores providing affordable fresh food (see graphic center of page). In fact, a 2007 study, *Access to Grocery Stores and Food Security in Dallas*, found that neighborhoods without grocery stores (e.g. only convenience stores) are predominantly low-income and African American, with a concentration of no-grocery-store neighborhoods located in the South Dallas area. Although the corner mart is chock full of chips, candy, packaged desserts, soft drinks and beer, it carries few of fresh fruits and vegetables for a healthy diet. It's no wonder that residents of this area have

difficulty following a healthy diet. The Healthy Harvest Community Gardening Partnership is attempting to change this problem in South Dallas. This partnership is comprised of several community organizations, academic partners, and philanthropists. Led by Dr. Mark DeHaven and Dr. Heather Kitzman-Ulrich from the University of North Texas Health Science Center, Primary Care Research Institute and Dr. Don Lambert from Gardeners in Community Development (GICD), and Ms. SheriAnne MacNeil, the partnership has 12

organization members including (members receiving gardens have an “\*”) : Cornerstone Baptist Church\*, Golden Gate Baptist Church\*, True Lee Missionary Baptist Church\*, First CME\* Church, Highland Hills Methodist Church\*, Faith Memorial Baptist Church\*, Promised Land Baptist Church\*, Paul Quinn College\* (Historically Black College and University, HBCU), St. Phillips Academy and Community Center\*, University of North Texas Health Sciences Center, Gardener’s in Community Development (GICD), and PepsiCo Project HOPE.

*(Gardens, continued next page)*

