

FINDING PEACE FROM THE HIDDEN BATTLE



"It has been a privilege to be part of the Victory Garden projects with VetREST. As a Veteran myself, I really enjoy my time helping in these outdoor projects. It provides a way to give back to the community, to learn about gardening, to relax, and to engage with other people that are looking for peace in their lives."

Roberto, Veteran & VetREST Victory Garden Volunteer



About VetREST & Our Work

Our mission is to mentor Veterans while providing farming opportunity in safe and supportive environments where they can achieve wellness themselves and produce healthy food for our community.

To advance the mission, we vision, develop, create, and sustain Victory Gardens while building places of peace for community benefit.

Learn more about our work and host/support a garden:

www.vetrest.org/our-work

Expand our impact and keep Victory Gardens growing.

www.vetrest.org/donate

What Are Victory Gardens?

The idea for Victory Gardens dates back to World War I when a severe food crisis emerged in Europe and the burden of feeding millions of people fell on the United States. Promoted through propaganda posters advocating that civilians "Sow the seeds of victory" by planting their own vegetables, the war garden movement (as it was originally known) was spread by word of mouth through numerous women's clubs, civic associations and chambers of commerce.

Shortly after the United States was drawn into the Second World War, victory gardens began to reemerge. Throughout both world wars, the Victory Garden campaign served as a successful means of boosting morale, expressing patriotism, safeguarding against food shortages on the home front, and easing the burden on the commercial farmers working arduously to feed troops and civilians overseas. VetREST's Victory Gardens serve this same purpose and is a space of peace, tranquility, education, and support.



Bybee Lakes Victory Garden

Visioned and opened in 2021, the Bybee Lakes Victory Garden is a three-acre garden on the grounds of the Bybee Lakes Hope Center, a transitional housing facility for those experiencing houselessness. The garden produces crop growth which helps feed the many Center participants and offers produce for sale at the local Farmer's Market.

"With hours and hours of hard work, events, and strategic planning from Bybee Lakes Hope Center and VetREST, we have accomplished so much. This Victory Garden is more than just a beautiful place, it is a place that provides nutrition, life skills, community, support, encouragement, growth, volunteer opportunities, education and so much more."

**Gloria, Operations Manager,
Bybee Lakes Hope Center**



Metro Central Victory Garden at St. John's Village

2022 brought the birth of a new Victory Garden at St John's Village in North Portland. Chartered through a Metro Central Enhancements grant, this place of peace brings refuge and rest to the participants of the host village, a 19-unit transitional housing supportive community led by Do Good Multnomah.



"From the very beginning of our work together the [VetREST] team were both intentional and inclusive. At our visioning session VetREST made sure that all voices were represented, most importantly the folks that were going to use and share the space most. They built a sense of ownership and responsibility within this community which is priceless for people experiencing houselessness."

**Matthew, DoGood Multnomah –
Operator of St. Johns Village**

