

FAQ: Grace Garden and Plant a Seed

Updated: 6/3/2019

What is Grace Garden?

Grace Garden is a YWCA supported residence, meaning it's permanent housing apartments with supportive services provided onsite – it is not an emergency shelter. Grace Garden offers 30 apartments ranging in size from 1 to 4 bedrooms.

Through partnerships with Lutheran Church of the Cross, Gate City Bank, ND Housing Finance Agency, ND Department of Commerce, Housing Authority of Cass County, and Beyond Shelter, Inc, we are fiercely united to create a clear path out of homelessness and into safe, secure homes. YWCA is grateful for this exceptional and unique collaboration among all entities.

Who will live at Grace Garden?

Families and individuals. Preference will be given to those facing domestic violence, followed by those homeless for other reasons; all staying at Grace Garden must income qualify. Each apartment has an income limit associated with it, meaning those living here are making well below the average income limits of our community.

What is Plant a Seed?

When you Plant a Seed, you provide the essentials of home to a family moving into Grace Garden. You can create a place for individuals and families to grow strong – mentally, economically and spiritually – when you give kitchen basics, bedroom décor, bath towels, bedding, lamps, laundry and cleaning supplies essential for those that will call Grace Garden home. Planting a Seed at Grace Garden means you are sponsoring an apartment and will purchase the essential items needed to make the apartment a home.

Thanks to the support of Wells Fargo, all large furniture will be supplied for each apartment and is not included in Plant a Seed.

How can I participate in Plant a Seed?

First, let us know you want to help! Visit www.ywcacassclay.org/housing and complete our Interest Form to ensure we can match you with the apartment size you'd like to outfit.

Secondly, shop online or in-store for all of the supplies needed to outfit an apartment. Or, if you'd rather, you can make a financial donation and our team will do the shopping for you!

Lastly, volunteer to set up or decorate an apartment so that it is ready for families to move in. We will be looking for volunteers to help us stage each of the apartments beginning in early June. Please reach out to Laura, YWCA Volunteer and Donation Coordinator, if you are interested in sharing your time: volunteer@ywcacassclay.org.

Can I Plant a Seed with new and used items?

As families and individuals start fresh and new at Grace Garden, we ask that all items given to Plant a Seed are also new. With your support, families and individuals will be welcomed home to their own, brand new kitchen, bath, and bed essentials.

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What new items are needed?

Each apartment needs to be outfitted with new kitchen supplies, linens, and bath essentials. We've created an online Target registry to make shopping quick and easy. Simply access the internet and visit: tgt.gifts/gracegarden. Please note that the registry simply outlines the items needed, you may purchase these exact items or utilize this list as a reference while selecting your own styles and colors.

There are also shopping lists you can utilize to shop in-store at www.ywcacassclay.org/housing.

How do I pick colors and designs, especially for kids?

Grace Garden will serve individuals and children covering a variety of ages. We encourage you to think about colors, pop culture, trends and patterns that your kids and grandkids currently enjoy as you select items for children at Grace Garden. This is also a great opportunity to bring your grandchildren and children shopping with you to teach them about giving back!

What can I do with used items I have?

YWCA continues to utilize used items for our other housing programs and emergency shelter. If you have used household items that you would like to donate, please bring them to YWCA Emergency Shelter at 3000 S. University Dr. Fargo, ND 58102.

If you have used furniture that is still in high quality condition and would like to share it with a family in need, we ask that you call ahead to ensure YWCA has space available to store your items. Please contact McKenzie at 701-232-3449.

What happens to the apartments and items as people move out?

As Grace Garden residents move out, YWCA wants to provide them the essentials to have sure footing on the next step of their journey. Families and individuals will take with them all household items, kitchen and bath essentials, linens, and mattresses as they move forward. This means YWCA will be in continual need of Plant a Seed generosity to ensure new families to Grace Garden will also be able to come home to a fully furnished apartment.

Grace Garden is a permanent supported residence, meaning some individuals may live there long-term, while others may stay for 1-2 years while they get back on their feet. This fluctuation is why we need your help and support throughout the years as we transition families.