

be able to touch a lot of people, she said.

"We serve a lot of kids, we have a 'turn no child away' policy," Cosson said. "We're able to give kids from all types of backgrounds an opportunity they wouldn't normally have. A lot of our kids would never have the opportunity to see a farm or work in a garden. It's a great opportunity to reach out to the community and get kids involved on all levels. To teach them that we can produce our own food right here in Greensboro."

The camp has been networking through e-mail, phone and Facebook in an effort to get more votes.

"Word really seems to be spreading," she said. "I get messages from people I don't even know telling me they voted for us. It has given the community a chance to support something Grants are usually a private process, but with this the community gets a chance to see the whole process. They've really embraced us."

Camp Weaver recently received a \$2,500 "healthy living" grant from Pepsi Co. to help with the garden.

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CAMP

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"It was one of our new camp initiatives from last spring," Cosson said. "The YMCA had changed their branding to include healthy living, so it just made sense. We had been keeping an eye out for grant opportunities to help fund the idea, so when we learned about Bread for Life's grant program we applied, placed within the top five, and it became real."

The grant would allow the camp to hire a professional to set up the garden and put the proper infrastructure together.

"This is a long-term goal, not just something we want to do for a year or two," Cosson said. "We want the kids to have an active part in the garden, not just eat the food that comes from it."

Cosson said the camp staff has made contact with Guilford County Schools science teachers about having students come to the camp during the school year and help manage the garden.

"During the summer we'll have our campers help," Cosson said.

Camp Weaver's project will

Camp Weaver needs votes to win grant

BY SYLVIA OBELL
STAFF WRITER

Greensboro's Camp Weaver is one of five finalists for a \$15,000 grant from the "Get Ingrained" Grants Program, and you can help them win through online voting.

The grant would help the YMCA of Greensboro camp pay for its organic garden project. "We're really excited about this excellent opportunity," said Jamie Cosson, executive director of Camp Weaver. "This garden will give our camp the opportunity to cook meals for tons of kids. It will incorporate vegetables into their meals and conversations. Camp is more than just a place to have fun. It's an outdoor classroom."

Two of the five finalists will receive \$15,000 in the "Get Ingrained" Grants Program. The contest seeks to improve health and wellness, specifically through nutrition-driven initiatives.

The idea for an organic garden on the Camp Weaver camp grounds came up during staff

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IS IT A BOY OR GIRL?
BIRTHS