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For Immediate Release

Donated Plants and Materials Green Chicagoland Communities

Nonprofits, Others Benefit from Chicago Flower & Garden Show Flowers, Trees, Shrubs

CHICAGO (March 31, 2015) – The [Chicago Flower & Garden Show](#), presented by Mariano’s, is modeling its mission to “Do Green. Do Good.” by giving plants and hardscape materials from its March 2015 event to community organizations and nonprofits throughout Chicagoland, including schools, churches and other charities.

“We are repurposing more than 2,000 plants, including spruces, roses, azaleas, tulips and perennials, and even hardscapes, such as [Unilock](#) stone and fencing, as part of our effort to inspire, educate and motivate everyone to green-up their community,” says Tony Abruscato, the show’s owner and director. Abruscato estimates that upwards of \$50,000 plants and materials are being donated. Show sponsors [Mariano’s](#) and [Subaru](#) are helping deliver some of the donations.

Growing Power, which helps communities grow food sustainably and then process and markets it, is receiving kale, lettuce, cabbage and herbs, along with hardscape material including fencing and a small bridge.

Misericordia, which helps the developmentally disabled, came to Navy Pier with U-Hauls to load up trees, shrubs, and other plants. A Chicago public school with a similar mission, the South Side Occupational Academy, came with a school bus and filled it with plants.

Other groups receiving donated plants are as diverse as the plants themselves!

The Westside Baseball League of Oak Lawn will use the Chicago Flower & Garden Show’s plants to landscape part of a new baseball park for little leaguers. Others benefitting from the show’s repurposing were Gardeneers.org, Kohl Children’s Museum, the North Uptown Neighbors Association, The Renaissance Collaborative, St. Christina Church on Chicago’s southwest side, Sunnyside Mall Gardeners, University of Illinois Extension Office, and the 42nd Street Garden.

- more -

Chicago Flower & Garden Show // Add One

The Chicago High School for Agricultural Sciences will demonstrate how the Chicago Flower & Garden Show's florals are repurposed, and in a sense, re-gifted. Students plan to sell some of the donated plants at their Mother's Day Plant Sale, with proceeds supporting the school.


Not all donations left Navy Pier, however. Approximately 100 tons of donated sand will take up permanent residence there, serving as a base for paver bricks to be installed as part of the current renovation.

"It took 11 days to build the show's landscape gardens, and two-and-a-half days to take it all down – but for many local groups who received our plants and materials, the show will live on in their landscape projects," Abruscato says.

Mark your calendar for "Chicago Is ..." – the 2016 Chicago Flower & Garden Show – March 12-20, 2016 at Navy Pier. For four-season, good-gardening inspiration, sign up for the Chicago Flower & Garden Show's e-newsletter and weekly blog at www.chicagoflower.com. You'll receive valuable tips about gardening and details about the show, including group tours, hotel discounts and exclusive ticket offers, as well as schedules and features. Learn more about the show on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/chicagoflower) and on Twitter [@chicagoflower](https://twitter.com/chicagoflower).

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Flower Show Productions, Inc. is the production company for the annual Chicago Flower & Garden Show at Navy Pier and for grand-scale public events that celebrate sustainable living and eco-friendly lifestyles. The company provides year-round messaging, education and information about the benefits of earth-friendly choices to our yards, neighborhoods, communities and the planet. Future show dates are March 12-20, 2016 and March 11-19, 2017. For information, please visit us at www.chicagoflower.com. Find the show on Facebook at www.facebook.com/chicagoflower and on Twitter [@ChicagoFlower](https://twitter.com/ChicagoFlower).

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