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July, 2009

*Health, Homes and Jobs for Homeless New Yorkers*



**E News for:**

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**Renewal Farm Grows Hope...**

...And lettuce and flowers. Now located in Garrison, NY, Renewal Farm gives men in recovery a chance to rebuild their lives and their resume. The men split their day between substance abuse counseling and hands-on experience growing organic produce and flowers. The counselors at St. Christopher's Inn, a licensed treatment program, help the men prepare for a future without drugs and alcohol and provide the tools the men will need to succeed. After six months, the men have seen the fruits of their labors: renewed self-esteem, discipline, team work, good work habits, and, of course, harvesting and selling the vegetables, herbs and flowers they have nurtured. The chefs at The Garrison are delighted with the produce, and local residents and visitors stop by the farm stand on Thursdays and Fridays to enjoy a freshly picked selection. "This has turned out to be a terrific partnership." reports David Harrington, Director of Renewal Farm, "The community has welcomed us, and we have made many friends here."

The farm could also use another pickup truck. If you can help, give Dave a call at (845) 335-1141 or email him at [david.harrington@projectrenewal.org](mailto:david.harrington@projectrenewal.org).



Watch The New York Times In the coming weeks for a special feature story on the farm!

If you're passing through Garrison on a Thursday or Friday, stop by the Renewal Farm stand and say hello. [For details, click here...](#)



### **Thomas Gerard - Renewal Farm Success Story**

"My final release date from jail was January 2, 2008. On January 7, I went to Renewal Farm at St. Christopher's Inn and that was the best thing that happened to me. It was a great match. We went out every morning clearing away the land, cutting down trees and bush. I was 67, and I never thought in my wildest dreams that I would be embarking on a new career as farmer! We worked and participated in support groups four days a week. In April the land was starting to take shape and we planted our first crops. That's the idea of the program: get out in the fresh air, plant something and see your work come before you and see the results. "

[Learn more about Thomas: how he ended up in jail, how he got sober and what he's doing now...](#)



### **Volunteers Give Shelter Yard a Makeover**

Board Member and longtime Project Renewal supporter Carl Rosoff and his colleagues at Cullen spent an afternoon at our Third Street Shelter transforming an asphalt "yard". Renewal Farm supplied the plants and beautiful planters. The space, which is often used for barbecues and events, has never looked better! Thank you Carl and all of our friends at Cullen!

**Yes, I wish to make a gift and help end homelessness.**

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