



## WILLIAMSON COUNTY AND CITIES HEALTH DISTRICT

### NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### *Wilco Wellness Alliance Awards Funds to Support Community Garden at Zion Lutheran Church and School in Walburg*

October 3, 2011 (Williamson County) –

The WilCo Wellness Alliance awarded a small grant of \$325 to Zion Lutheran Church and School in Walburg from their Faith-Based Community Gardens Initiative. The initiative focuses on improved nutrition through education and sustainable community gardens.

The start-up funds at the Zion Lutheran Church and School will be used to help create a community garden that promotes and supports a healthy lifestyle for members of the church as well as people in the community. In addition to creating a community garden, Zion Lutheran Church and School will provide classes on how to garden and cook with fresh produce in the kitchen. "Zion is very excited to have received the Faith-Based Community Garden Grant. We have built our gardening beds and planted a variety of vegetables. The students are very enthusiastic about working in the garden and look forward to a bountiful harvest this fall," said Suzan Winkelman, a representative from Zion Lutheran Church and School.

Suzan Winkelman and other representatives from the Zion Lutheran Church and School will attend Expert Gardener and Let's Cook with Color training held by Williamson County and Cities Health District (WCCHD) in the coming months. "Our classes will supply useful information that will support the success and enjoyment of this new community garden. We want this congregation to reap bountiful harvest from their gardening efforts," said Natalie Vreeland, WCCHD Horticulturist and Community Garden Program Coordinator.

The WilCo Wellness Alliance has additional funding for the Faith-Based Community Gardens Initiative and all churches/places of worship in Williamson County are encouraged to apply. The Project Overview and Grant Application can be accessed by going to the Williamson County and Cities Health District website at [www.wcchd.org](http://www.wcchd.org) or emailing Melissa Cammack at [mcammack@wcchd.org](mailto:mcammack@wcchd.org). Applications are being accepted on a continuous basis but will be reviewed quarterly; the next due date is December 1, 2011.

The WilCo Wellness Alliance is a local coalition in Williamson County that focuses on policy and environmental initiatives related to nutrition, physical activity, tobacco use, and chronic disease.

For more information about *your public health department* please visit [www.wcchd.org](http://www.wcchd.org).