Fresh vegetables are critical to nutrition. 2,405 pounds of fresh vegetables were donated to five entities reaching 639 low income individuals through a grant from Growing Together Nebraska.

The 2020 pandemic made access to fresh produce even more challenging for low income families. “We heard many of our residents share how grateful they were for the produce as many here cannot afford fresh vegetables,” Bonnie McPhillips, Columbus Housing Authority. Growing Together Nebraska (GTN) is a collaboration of Nebraska Extension, SNAP-Ed and Extension Master Gardeners to donate produce to access sites, such as food pantries. A $1053 GTN grant helped them with planting costs; and 8 Master Gardeners volunteered 87 hours and Extension and Columbus After School Program donated 200 hours.