Connecting generations through gardening

Grandville South Elementary School teacher, Julie Moore, and Grandville Senior Center Coordinator, Lisa Sarber, had a beautiful dream of bringing students to the Grandville Senior Neighbors Center to plant a garden and seeds of love. The garden project would be an opportunity for center members to spend the day outdoors and connect with local youth, providing a day to be remembered for everyone.

Center members joined forces with the sixth graders to cultivate the soil, plant vegetables and decorate pots to be used around the center. This was a new experience for many involved, but certainly not one that will be forgotten! This wonderful partnership was also made possible through the support of local non-profit H.O.P.E. Gardens and their goal to empower children and families in west Michigan to grow their own food.

**IMPACT SPOTLIGHT:** Not only did the day prove to be a beautiful sight to behold, with multiple generations coming together for a common goal, it also provided healthy food for the entire year! The refrigerator at Grandville was stocked with cucumbers, tomatoes and so much more. Members could enjoy them at the center or take them home to enjoy with dinner.
The average bathroom, especially the shower, is NOT very user friendly for seniors facing mobility challenges. Such was the case for Jesusa. She loved her home and desperately wanted to stay put, but her bathroom had become a hazard to her health. Thankfully, because of her husband’s service in the Army and our partnership with The Home Depot Foundation and Meals on Wheels America, we were able to help!

The Helping Homebound Heroes program helps veterans and their spouses, who have already given so much, with home repairs they could not otherwise afford. This program promotes safety in the home, addressing problem areas before they lead to an accident.

**IMPACT SPOTLIGHT:** Our team got to work and updated her shower with a grab bar and a low entry threshold. She is now safer and, most importantly, able to stay in her home!