

BUILD

We have a special story to tell. It's a sweet story of success that highlights **Volunteer Kalamazoo's Days of Service**. One of our partner organizations – Trybal Revival Community Garden – and hundreds of volunteers gathered together to make a difference.

Trybal Revival Community Garden received their first plot of land just in time to participate as a host site for our inaugural Day of Service in 2012. Over the course of the year, we hosted volunteer projects on four community-wide **Days of Service**, and together, began to transform an abandoned lot by removing decades of junk and litter. The following year, Trybal Revival hosted three more **Days of Service**. We also connected them with Western Michigan University to host students during Western's Fall and Spring Into the Streets events. Sprouting off the success of their first community garden, the local land bank donated a second – even larger property – and work began again to clean and improve that lot.



As the gardens began to take shape in these abandoned lots, we noticed that they were not only transforming the land into workable soil, but they were transforming the neighborhood too. In addition to hosting **Days of Service**, Trybal Revival Garden formed their own volunteer groups, made up of community members and neighbors, to help with the project. What began as a small effort to clean up a vacant lot became much more!

Trybal Revival Community Garden blossomed into a leader in the urban garden movement and in the engagement of volunteers in Kalamazoo. Together, we are making a big difference. Check out their website at www.trybalrevivalgarden.com, drive by the gardens to see for yourself the great work happening there, or better yet - volunteer.

