



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Digging it: Flourishing Read & Seed Adventure with Chelsea Senior Center and Chelsea Community Preschool



CSC volunteers and Chelsea preschoolers sown seeds in the hoop house for a late spring harvest.

Nearly 90 Chelsea Community Preschoolers dug into seed-sowing fun at Chelsea Senior Center on April 23 and 24 for the annual Read and Seed program.

For the first time of the nine-year program, preschoolers and teachers embarked on the adventure by following the paved pathway to Chelsea Senior Center (CSC) from their new location at Pierce Lake Early Childhood Center. Fortunately, the weather cooperated for the outings. Bluebirds and crabapple blossoms brightened their journey to the well-tended Trinh Pifer Intergenerational Garden at CSC. From the littlest explorer to five-year-olds, students sown seeds, covered and watered them and tasted a fresh-plucked radish from the soil.

“I am thrilled that Read and Seed continues to be a highly anticipated activity each year,” says Jennifer Smith, Executive Director, Chelsea Senior Center. “Many preschoolers have heard older siblings talk about Read and Seed and are excited to participate. Some of our senior volunteers read to their grandkids and great-grandkids!” says Smith.

Master Gardener Allison Rullman streamlined the gardening efforts with thoughtful garden rows and seed packets for each classroom, and water-filled cups at the ready for little

hands. The result? A joyful hands-on experience for the young visitors and the senior volunteers alike.

“That was so easy,” says one preschooler as he skipped out of the hoop house after planting tiny carrot seeds. The collective hard work will pay off when the preschoolers return later this spring to see the vegetables sprouting, including green bean, bok choy, green onion, spinach, beet, turnip, radish, kale, chervil, lettuce, nasturtium, cucumber, yellow squash and edamame.

Seed sowing tactics varied from a creative toss to exact precision. After planting, each student tasted a radish pulled from the soil after a dip and swoosh in the wash basin. While some students rated the radish with thumbs down, there were a few who liked the crunchy root veggie with a kick.

In the Board Room of the Washington Street Education Center, CSC volunteers read books to students like *The Crunching, Munching Caterpillar*, *I Will Never Not Ever Eat a Tomato* and *The Surprise Garden*. The indoor gatherings for storytime offered a respite for the young ones and gave volunteers an opportunity to engage with the younger generation with age-specific silly topics and practical how-tos on tending a garden.

Kathy Eberle has been a longtime Read and Seed volunteer. “I love reading to the kids because they enjoy it so much. I like to choose my favorite books, so I try to arrive early,” says Eberle. “Reading to such young children gives me hope for the future.”

Chelsea Senior Center (CSC) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization in Chelsea, Michigan. Its mission is to enhance the quality of life and well-being for area seniors and their families. Chelsea Senior Center, celebrating 60 years in 2025, is located at 512 Washington Street.

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