

Greenhouse Project



The students will be able to enjoy an outdoor-like atmosphere during all four seasons. Ty enjoys soaking up the sun on a winter morning—from the comfort of the greenhouse.

Nears Completion

ACCC Looks to a Future Filled with Growth



By Dan Howell
Chief Executive
Officer

Lives are changed every day at Anne Carlsen Center for Children (ACCC). Students and staff members grow and learn together in the nurturing environment provided here.

It's only appropriate that an organization that specializes in the growth and development of people would also take an interest in other "growing" opportunities.

Contractors broke ground last fall on a greenhouse that students will be able to utilize all year round.

There's been a lot of excitement as the project nears completion. Work on the solarium was finished in January. The beautiful, glassed-in porch will allow the students to feel the warmth of the sun, while they enjoy a very hands-on role in nurturing a variety of plants.

Radiant floor heating has been installed, and it will help create a comfortable place for children to enjoy nature indoors, regardless of how low the mercury goes outdoors.

The 24 ft. by 26 ft. structure has an air handling unit that allows for optimum comfort and growing conditions all year long.

"This greenhouse is important because it will provide the means to unlock potential in all of our students through vocational, educational, emotional, and physical channels. It provides an aesthetic, healing environment that—as research shows—is unique and not duplicated in other clinical type settings."

Mary Lewis
ACCC Teacher

"It will give the students endless opportunities to learn and be active with lessons, projects, and community involvement that will naturally provide growth and building of functional skills for all of our students."

Corby Maddock
ACCC Teacher

Safety features added in February include non-slip floors, lowered planter beds, and water hoses descending from the ceiling. Work tables are being added for children of all abilities, and the greenhouse is accessible for those in wheelchairs.

Other features include full-spectrum growth lights that retract when students and staff want to open the windows and a fountain that will serve as a focal point.

The greenhouse is a place that Adam Pederson would have loved. The Minnesota teen passed away on Feb. 15, 2007. Diagnosed with Batten Disease, a neurological degenerative disorder that presently has no cure, Adam lived life to the fullest and spent every minute he could participating in outdoor activities. His happiest moments revolved around nature. His parents, Jerry and Kim, pledged \$30,000 to the greenhouse construction, in memory of their son.

Other generous, major donors have stepped forward, such as ND Community Foundation—Anne Carlsen Fund, Ottertail Power Company, Grants Mechanical, and Dorthea Melroe. Many smaller donations have also been made to make this dream a reality. The estimated cost of the project is \$110,000. We expect the greenhouse to be complete by March 2008 and fully integrated into the curriculum by 2009.

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The greenhouse will help students enjoy a variety of fun, hands-on learning opportunities. Seed planting is scheduled to begin in late March. Students will grow vegetables and flowers from seed for their school gardens. The greenhouse project will also give them invaluable business skills, as students will be able to sell some of the seedlings. They will also grow plants for special occasions, such as memorials and graduations.

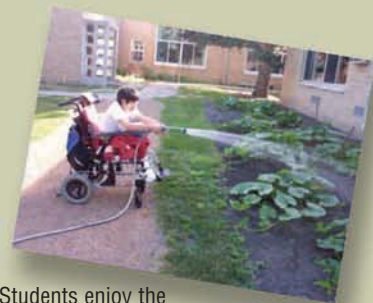
This project is a wonderful expansion of an ACCC gardening program that continues to thrive! The students have enjoyed helping maintain a dozen plots with raised garden beds and flower pots on wheels. They have made and sold salsa at the Center and at community events. There are activities and classroom lessons that help the



children appreciate every aspect of the growing season. With the addition of the greenhouse, the students will be able to benefit from these learning experiences during the entire year.

Here at ACCC, we are rooted in a tradition of celebrating the simple joys of life. We know how important it is to stop and smell the flowers. Interacting with nature is important for our happiness and development in all stages of life. The greenhouse offers a comfortable and accessible place for students to gain valuable skills and create lasting memories. Your gifts help provide opportunities like this for our students to learn, grow and succeed.

At Anne Carlsen Center for Children, the gardening program keeps growing every year. Students enjoy a variety of hands-on activities, from planting seeds to pulling weeds. They learn all about the joys and responsibilities involved in tending a garden. The greenhouse will make it possible to interact with nature all year long.



Students enjoy the multi-sensory experience of working in the garden, which includes dutifully watering each plant. Frank has become an expert at it!



One of the many rewards involved in the gardening program is harvesting the crop. Matt helps gather the fruits of their labor.

