



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Waterford Village Elementary School Receives \$20,000 Nutrition Grant**

*Grant to help sustain and build school nutrition program*

**March 7, 2011 Waterford, Mich.** – Waterford Village Elementary School is the recipient of a Love Your Veggies™ school grant this year, sponsored by the makers of Hidden Valley® Salad Dressings. The \$20,000 grant will help sustain and grow the school's successful nutrition and gardening program. Waterford Village is one of five recipients receiving this award this year.

Chosen because of its proven dedication to nutrition education, Waterford Village will help Love Your Veggies™ launch the Great Veggie Adventure, a search for a new, kid-approved vegetable. The students will act as the official farmers and taste testers of the program's new and unusual vegetables. Time-lapse cameras installed in the school's garden will capture the veggies growth from plot to plate.

Waterford Village will also use the grant funds to maintain the existing garden, provide fresh fruits and vegetables to students, travel to the Oakland County Farmer's Market, organize a Village Farmer's Market Day, where parents can purchase produce from the garden, and host a pot luck dinner.

"The Love Your Veggies™ grant will allow us to continue our work and take our students on a Great Veggie Adventure, engaging them through the entire process of growing, harvesting, preparing, cooking and enjoying vegetables," said Principal Val Grimes. "We hope to spark their interest and a life-long habit of eating nutritious, delicious foods. Our school needs continued support in executing our wellness programs and we thank Hidden Valley® Salad Dressings for providing us with this grant."

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On **Thursday, March 10, 5:45 – 8 p.m.**, Waterford Village Elementary will host Family Learning Night for parents and students to promote *Health, Wellness, and the Whole Child* and to celebrate the grant award. Erin Lamb, from the Crim Foundation, will speak to parents while students are entertained by Baffling Bill, the Magician. Healthy foods, catered by Leo's Coney Island of White Lake, will include turkey roll ups, vegetables with Hidden Valley® Salad Dressing, fruit kabobs, and ants on a log (peanut butter on celery, with raisins).

Over the course of the five-year Love Your Veggies™ program, the makers of Hidden Valley® Salad Dressings have awarded \$960,000 in nutrition grants to more than 80 elementary schools and community organizations nationwide to help kids grow their love of veggies. Hidden Valley® created the Love Your Veggies™ program after a study found that children consumed more vegetables when paired with a moderate amount of ranch dressing (2006 study of two Northern California elementary schools conducted by the University of California Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program and the Butte County Cooperative Extension).

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