

Sloane used it to teach cooking classes. "You know you've done something when middle schoolers are excited about vegetable soup," says Sloane. Encouraged, she launched the Green Initiative for Vegetables in Education (GIVE) last year to inspire nearby schools to start gardens. "Before I knew it, 20 schools had contacted me," she says. In her director's role, Sloane advises the schools on plotting seedbeds and helps them hunt down discounted supplies. City and local tree services donate and deliver compost and wood chips, and private donations make up the rest.

"Several people have said that if I hadn't started GIVE, their school garden wouldn't have happened," says Sloane, who learned to garden during summers spent on a farm. "To me, it's all about helping kids appreciate what the land does for us."

*Beth Dreher*

**For more information about Pam Sloane and other innovative green projects, go to [greentowns.com](http://greentowns.com).**

**Putting Down Roots**