



## **Hope Grows Take a Break in the Dirt Community Garden Program**

### **Family Information**

Hope Grows recognizes that caring for a child with a developmental or neurological disability is a great responsibility, so Hope Grows has established the Hope Grows Program to assist you with this effort. A Hope Grows staff member will pair a trained volunteer with your family to provide reliable respite care. Our volunteers are carefully screened and trained to assure that your family receives the highest level of service.

The assistance provided by your Hope Grows Respite Volunteer generally falls into the following categories:

- offering friendship and companionship
- sharing therapeutic and creative recreation activities (adaptive gardening)
- aiding in the development of social skills
- providing basic personal care
- assisting in feeding, positioning, transferring
- assist with routine oral medication

While your Hope Grows volunteer is providing the Take a Break in the Dirt programming, Hope Grows would like for you to engage in a relaxing activity. On the last day of the 6-week program, Hope Grows would like for you and your family to join us at the location of the program. After the programming begins, you will be able to engage in activities at your discretion, except in cases when it is inappropriate for your volunteer to accept total responsibility for your child's care.

In these situations, you will be asked to remain with your child at the Take a Break in the Dirt location while your child participates in the programming or your child will not be able to attend. During this time, you will be able to transfer the responsibility of watching your child to your volunteer, leaving you free to do different things at home or in the community. Volunteers make a 6 week (1x a week for a two (2) to three (3) hour session) commitment to serve a Hope Grows family.

Your family is eligible to be served by the Hope Grows Volunteer Respite Program if your child:

- is age 5 – 17
- is diagnosed with a developmental disability, autism, cerebral palsy, or other neurological impairments
- lives at home with a parent or custodial caregiver and is able to transport the child to the location of the seasonal program

### **Family Registration**

To register for the Hope Grows Program, please complete the Family Registration form and return it to Lisa Story at Hope Grows, Take a Break in the Dirt Coordinator. If you do not have the form, contact Lisa Story at 412-396-4673. When potential volunteers are available in your area, the Take a Break in the Dirt Coordinator will contact you to schedule an appointment to meet with you and your family at a location agreed upon, preferably at the program site. This assessment visit will last one (1) to two (2) hours. There is no application or ongoing fee to register for Hope Grows services.