

PRESS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 5, 2009

Garden Sale & Family Fun Day to raise funds for Berkshire Children's Fund

Canaan, NY – Berkshire Farm Center's annual **Garden Sale & Family Fun Day** will be held Saturday, May 16, 2009 from 8:00am to 4:00pm. The Garden Sale will continue on Sunday, May 17 from 9:00am to 2:00pm. All activities are at Berkshire's campus at 13640 Rt. 22 in Canaan, NY 12029. The main entrance is across from the intersection with Queechy Lake Drive and is about 1 ½ mile north of Rt. 295.

The fundraising event will include thousands of garden-ready plants at reasonable prices, including annuals, perennials, hanging baskets, herbs, vegetables, and pre-planted window boxes. In addition to the plant sale, Saturday's event will also feature a bake sale, tag sale, and various children's activities and crafts. Lunch will be available for purchase, and admission is free. Plant purchases can also be made on Sunday.

For more information on the Garden Sale, contact Bruce Wood at 518-781-4567 ext. 2378. (Press inquiries should be made to Keith Toomey at 518-781-4567 ext. 2542.)

ABOUT THE FUNDRAISER

This event benefits the Berkshire Children's Fund, which supports exciting and effective programming for at-risk children helped by Berkshire Farm Center, a non-profit child welfare agency strengthening children, families, and communities for more than 122 years. Berkshire's programs provide life-changing experiences for youth.

Among these is Berkshire's Horticulture and Animal Husbandry Program, which offers a safe, therapeutic, educational environment for youth. The program has blossomed into a multi-faceted vocational-based learning experience. Its "hands-on" approach has been proven effective with troubled youth, providing them with opportunities to learn while caring for plants and animals. Under supervision of a trained horticulturist, these youth have nurtured the plants available for sale and will eagerly help Garden Sale shoppers choose and pack their purchases.

Bruce Wood, the Director of the Horticulture and Animal Husbandry Program, says the plants at the sale are the result of months of hard work by the youth in the program. "The youth who work here gain marketable skills that they can use when looking for employment in their home communities," added Wood.

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