Monsanto
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Subj: Media -- East St. Louis Gardening Project

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A press conference was held this morning to announce the initiation of a community gardening project in East St. Louis that will eventually include a fall harvest, and a farmers market. The Cooperative Inner City Gardening Initiative grew out of a joint venture between Operation New Spirit (the East St. Louis community group) and the Office of Economic and Regional Development at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. The project will help stimulate economic development and also help to eliminate problems associated with overgrown vacant lots.

Monsanto supported the effort though dedicated funds from the Ag Group's 1992 Pledge Award winner for Innovation, the W. G. Krummrich plant, and the Monsanto Fund for a total of $10,000 to off-set start up costs.

The event was covered by KTVI - Channel 2, and the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*.

A press conference will be held in the fall to demonstrate the results of the gardening effort.

Kevin S. Cahill

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