



State of South Carolina
The Family Court of the Sixteenth Judicial Circuit

Tony M. Jones
Judge

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May 9, 2016

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley
Office of the Governor
1205 Pendleton Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

The Solicitor's Office in the 16th Judicial Circuit, in conjunction with the Department of Juvenile Justice and Family Court, operate a Juvenile Drug Court Program. York County Family Court Judge David Guyton and myself oversee the program. The Juvenile Drug Court is an intensive 10 to 12 month program which includes extensive counseling, etc. in an effort to alter the lifestyle choices that the children are making. The program requires community service work. Gardens have been created on the Family Courthouse grounds in York County wherein the juveniles work as part of their community service requirements. Most of these children have never had any exposure to planting gardens, vegetable or otherwise, and most have never had their hands in the soil. We are in the second year of the program. Now that the children are beginning to see the results from their efforts, they are taking an active interest in the project and are excited about what they can and do produce. The project is privately funded.

Even though I am the primary person who designs the gardens and oversees the planting, the juveniles themselves do all of the work. They plant flower as well as vegetable gardens. Enclosed is a photograph of the pansy garden planted by the juveniles last Fall. It has been absolutely beautiful. We are very pleased to be able to send to you, our Governor, an example of the work we are doing in York County to assist our youth. The children want you to be able to enjoy their garden.

The gardens are well underway for the Spring and Summer of 2016. The juveniles have planted tomatoes, corn, potatoes, onions, carrots, celery, and peppers. The entire Drug Court is excited over the success of this program and as you can see from their end product, their results are second to none.

With kindest regards from York County, I remain

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tony M. Jones", written over a horizontal line.

Tony M. Jones
Family Court Judge
Sixteenth Judicial Circuit

TMJ/dsg
Enclosure

