

EDUCATION FUND IS HELPING FAMILIES

[The Education Fund](#) has always had the mission to enhance public education and now the nonprofit is helping feed needy families.

The Fund's staff and teachers are harvesting produce every week from 51 edible gardens and food forests in our public elementary schools through a project with Miami-Dade County Public Schools Department of Food and Nutrition, and [Empowered Youth USA](#).



Teacher Mayako Nakamura harvests the garden at Gratigny Elementary School to help feed needy students and their families. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE EDUCATION FUND.

Before the pandemic, these food forests, some of which are an acre in size, provided produce for cafeteria lunches and for students to take home. Now, harvest bags are being distributed to families from Homestead to Miami Gardens.

The group has also retooled programs to supply teachers, students, and their families with materials to make distance learning easier. And it gifted [Camillus House](#) with \$40,000 in supplies from its Ocean Bank Center for Educational Materials, and organized distribution of \$120,000 in materials and 2,000 backpacks full of school supplies.

A special grant program, funded by P.L. Dodge Foundation, will help teachers pay for technology to enhance the remote-learning experience. The organization received 375 grant applications in two hours from local teachers. Visit www.educationfund.org

If you have news for this column, write to ChristinaMMayo@gmail.com