

NEWS FROM TEMPLE BETH ISRAEL AND UNCOMMON GOOD

Temple Beth Israel recently dedicated nearly 10,000 square feet of its grass to construct an urban farm managed by the Claremont nonprofit organization Uncommon Good. Groundbreaking took place back in October, and by now the grass has been removed and raised bed planting boxes have been constructed.

This is the most recent of Uncommon Good's "Fiddleneck Family Farms". The farms are part of its program of using unemployed farmers to grow the food. Half the produce will be given to participants in the program, and the other half sold at the Whole Earth House, a state-of-the-art green building located behind Claremont United Methodist Church. Uncommon Good will also work to provide educational and employment opportunities for the farmers' children.

The next steps at Temple Beth Israel's urban farm, located at 3033 N. Towne Ave., will be to install irrigation lines and haul in dirt and compost to the boxes, to be ready for the spring planting season.

Converting grass to agricultural products not only provides locally-grown food and employment for people who need it, but also reduces the amount of water used on the grounds.

Uncommon Good needs customers from the local community to make this program a success. If you are interested in buying their produce, please stop by the Whole Earth House, 211 W. Foothill Blvd., Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm. (Soon Saturday morning hours will be added as well.) A map of directions is provided below - it is a bit tricky to find the first time, but it is well worth the effort! You can also arrange for a box of fruits and vegetables to be delivered to your home each week for a small additional charge: You can order a box online at www.uncommongood.org. All the produce is grown without any chemicals or pesticides. It is the freshest, most local, healthiest possible veggies and fruits that one can get.

Once the farm at TBI is up and running, Uncommon Good will begin work on a similar urban farm at Claremont Presbyterian Church. Temple Beth Israel, Uncommon Good, Claremont United Methodist Church, and Claremont Presbyterian Church are all members of the Interfaith Sustainability Council of the Inland Valley. *Thanks to Jerry Fenning of TBI and Nancy Mintie of Uncommon Good for the information in this article.*

Uncommon Good's Whole Earth Building is located on the campus of the Claremont United Methodist Church:

211 W Foothill Blvd
Claremont, CA 91711

- Exit San Bernardino Freeway (I-10) at Indian Hill Blvd.
- Go north 1.8 miles
- Turn R on Foothill Blvd (at signal)
- Make an immediate L into the 1st driveway between US Bank and Pacific Western Bank.
- At north end of parking lot turn L
- Follow driveway around to back parking lot

The building site is next to the back parking lot.

