

Garden project bears fruit

■ First crop is harvested

BRIAN BOOYSEN

THE first crop from the Oliver Foundation tunnel garden project at PE's Red Location Museum was harvested last week.

The project was started three years ago by the foundation's project director Gail Hawes and PE businessman Chris Lovemore who worked together with the Young Christians' Pioneers founder Wiseman Cosa and Red Location Museum's marketing officer Annette du Plessis.

Hawes said the project came about to help needy communities in Port Elizabeth's townships to feed themselves.

This was to be achieved by planting vegetables for consumption and for sale.

"The produce the community does not use will be sold and the money will be ploughed back into the running of the project," she said.

"The soup kitchen will use the vegetables to feed both school children and the sick who can't support themselves anymore," she said.

Du Plessis said she spearheaded a drive to get local communities to participate in projects the museum runs.

She was ecstatic at the harvesting. She said the lushness of the vegetables could be compared with the healthy relationship that exists between the community and the museum.

"The tunnel project is another drive to fight off malnutrition in the local community," she added.

Du Plessis said having contributed to the running of similar projects in the past, it was pleasing to see the success of yet another (project).

The groups involved hope to start similar projects by attracting local residents and business people.



GREEN FINGERS: Tunnel garden members Red Museum's Marketing Officer Annette du Plessis (left), Gail Hawes from the Oliver Foundation and founders of the Young Christian Pioneers, Wiseman Cosa and Lungelwa Mahlangu with the crop from their garden.

Picture: Brian Booysen