

**“You Raise Me Up to More Than I Can Be”**  
**Lake and Hills Garden Club 2019 Raised Bed Project**  
*The Summer SC Gardener*

When the Lake and Garden Hills Garden Club (LHGC) began work at Seneca Health and Rehabilitation Center this spring, the Club did not intend that its 2019 raised bed project would become the embodiment of a song lyric. But that is precisely what happened.

The original plan was to build, weed, plant, and maintain a single raised bed for the enjoyment of the facility’s residents. However, as the project got underway, it became clear that much more work was required. Project Lead Laurie Churchill discovered two existing beds that needed to be redone, many large pots begging to be replanted, and over 60 bird feeders that were mildewed and sprouting bird seed. Laurie gathered up and took home all 60 feeders. She threw away about half, fixed the rest, filled them with seed, and hung them in front of the large dining room windows at Seneca Health and Rehabilitation. Laurie commented, “You should have seen the smiles and waves I got by just putting up a couple of clean and filled bird feeders.”

And that is exactly how this single raised bed project came to manifest the song lyric: “You raise me up to more than I can be.” On March 19, Laurie and her team cleaned out the raised beds and pots at Seneca Health and Rehabilitation to get them ready for planting. The LHGC also ordered new bird feeders, including six hummingbird and six suet feeders. Then, on April 29, the LHGC team bought and planted flowers in 28 pots and loaded over 40 pounds of bird seed into 72 bird feeders that are predominately placed in front of patient room windows. However, the project was still not complete. On May 6, the team planted tomatoes, peppers, and marigolds in the raised garden bed that will be at the perfect height for wheelchair patients to tend. In addition, the team planted more flower pots and added even more bird feeders so that every patient can enjoy watching birds from his or her room. Later in the month, six bluebird house kits that the LHGC had ordered will be available for the more able residents to assemble and enjoy. When Pam Paul, the Seneca Health and Rehabilitation Director, expressed her gratitude to the LHGC raised bed team, she noted: “I’ve worked in patient care for 30 years. I’ve worked here three times, and I hope to finish my career here. These plantings show the guests, staff, and visitors that we are a thriving community.”

Certainly, the idea for a single raised bed to benefit Seneca Health and Rehabilitation patients blossomed into much more, not the least of which is confirmation of LHGC’s President Lynn Pode’s theme: *Gardeners Root Our Community*.



### **The Lake and Hills Garden Club Raised Bed Team**

Kathy McGovern (foreground), l-r: Peggy Gates, Ann Cramer, Jenny Leisinger, Kathleen Fosha, Project Lead Laurie Churchill and President Lynn Pode (L-R). Other team members not pictured: Karen DeVelder, Marge Gilchrist, Julie Hoppock, Laurie Flanagan, Lorraine Gerhart, Carolyn Mitchell, Nan Piotrowski, and Nancy Tilley.