

Justice and Creation Summer Fellowship 2025

Leadership & support to establish
Montagnard Residential and Small
Community Composting

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American GI's interacted with
Montagnards in the Highlands of Vietnam.

The Community Need



Montagnard families have resettled in North Carolina after feeling persecution, and they have a strong farming tradition which connects them deeply to nature and to each other.

In 2008, Montagnard families at St. Paul's Christian church started a community Garden to grow familiar food to give and feed families. Today, it produces hundreds of pounds of food for each season within the community.

To expand this legacy, my goal is to educate people on composting practices to help improve soil health, reduce waste, and ensure long-term sustainability for the garden and future generations.





The project builds on the Montagnard Community Garden by adding composting as the next step in creation care.

Composting Facility Construction – A three-bay compost system was built at the garden to improve soil health and reduce waste.

Digital Education in Jarai – A “How to Compost” video was created to be shared with the St. Paul’s Community and online to reach Montagnard communities around the world.

Community Outreach – Presentations will be given in Montagnard churches about composting, soil regeneration, and climate change.

Highlights of the program include empowering Montagnard families with new sustainable skills, connecting traditional farming knowledge with modern ecological practices, and offering youth leadership opportunities through translation, teaching, and hands-on work.

Collaborators and Partners

This project was made possible through the guidance of Julie Moore, mentor and composting expert, and the support of Cathy Cralle Jones, who serves as a bridge between St. Paul's and the Green Chalice Ministry. Volunteers within the church also played an important role, lending their time and energy to help build, support, and sustain the project. Beyond the congregation, the Montagnard Association of North Carolina and Montagnard churches partnered in the effort. The project is also deeply rooted in Montagnard ancestral farming traditions, which continue to shape and guide this ministry.



Connection and Impact

The composting project has strengthened both the Montagnard community and St. Paul's Christian Church. By building the composting system at the community garden, families will have healthier soil and a sustainable way to grow food for their tables. The creation of a Jarai composting video will expand the impact far beyond Raleigh, making education accessible to Montagnard families across the world. Presentations in churches will also inspire others to consider composting as part of their own ministry. This project not only improved food security but also reinforced bonds within the congregation, as volunteers and leaders worked side by side.



Presence of God

This summer, I experienced God's presence in many ways. Working alongside Montagnard families in the garden showed me God's love through community and service. Caring for creation through composting and gardening reminded me of God's renewal in the earth. I also saw God in cultural traditions like dance, language, and storytelling, which carry strength and resilience through generations. Helping through translation, teaching, and leadership gave me moments of gratitude and humility, where faith came alive in action. God's spirit was present not only in worship but also in the soil, in the hands that worked it, and in the lives that were nourished by it.



The Beloved Community

This fellowship has helped our congregation and community grow closer to becoming the beloved community of God. By building the composting project, we created more than just a system for healthy soil. We also created a space for people to work together, learn together, and strengthen one another. The Montagnard heritage of farming and caring for the land found new life alongside the church's commitment to creation care. The impact of this project will continue through the community garden, through the composting video that will reach the Montagnard families across the world, and through the young leaders. The work of this ministry will carry forward as the church and community continue to grow in faith, sustainability, and love for one another.



