

ANNUAL REPORT  
FOUNDERS FUND – 2023

The Founders Fund was started in 1934 to honor Elizabeth Price Martin, the first President of the Garden Club of America and the driving force in creating what has become a national organization composed of 200 independent garden clubs. The 18,000 members of those clubs voted for this year's winners.

The 2023 Founders Fund prize of \$30,000 was won by Evanston Grows, a project of the Garden Club of Evanston, Illinois, Zone XI. Their 18 edible gardens provide 4000 pounds of fresh produce annually for the underserved neighborhoods of their city. This is the project for which a majority of our members voted. The two runners-up were the Cylburn Arboretum in Baltimore, proposed by the St. George's Garden Club and the Pollinator Meadow in Louisville, proposed by the Glenview Garden Club. Each will receive a \$10,000 award.

Many thanks to Wendy Russell for making it possible for our members to vote for the Founders Fund on the Club's website, a process which has resulted in increased participation in recent years.

The Founders Fund represents the core values of the GCA and it is a pleasure to be your representative.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Barton