

Samuel Vilmeau Takes Pride in Urban Gardening to Relieve Neighborhood Food Insecurity



Samuel Vilmeau is contributing to community impact through the Barry Urban Garden (BUG). The Barry Service Corps (BSC) Fellow is committed to doing his part to address food insecurity by serving in the BUG.

“To have a successful garden and produce,” Samuel says, “we must first ensure that our garden is thriving.” For it to thrive, he explains, it needs maintenance.

And that’s where Samuel comes in. He has embraced the role of urban gardener, helping to maintain the garden throughout the year.

“Everything I do in the garden ensures we can grow more and learn from each season,” he says.

Just recently, for example, he put a trellis in place to support the growth of dragon fruit.

The [BUG](#) is “a community agriculture initiative that provides ... produce to low-income residents of Miami neighborhoods that the U.S. Department of Agriculture has categorized as urban food deserts.” The project also encourages healthy eating among residents of Miami-Dade County.

A junior exercise physiology major, Samuel hopes one day to build a community gym. ... This won't be your regular gym, however, as it will include a community garden.

Barry students, along with faculty and staff, promote awareness of food insecurity. Students, supervised by the BUG coordinator, do most of the planting, weeding, harvesting, and distribution of the produce from the BUG.

“Samuel came into the garden with a positive attitude,” recalls Kaitlyn Gallagher, the BUG coordinator. “He has kept up with an amazing work ethic since day one.”

