

## Los Vegas Family Church Shine City Project at Vegas Roots Community Garden

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On May 8, 2021, Shine City Project volunteered for the first time with the Vegas Roots Community Garden! Founded in March 2010 by Together We Can, Vegas Roots is a community-based garden which provides Las Vegas residents an opportunity to grow their own food while promoting healthy eating and healthy lifestyles. Vegas Roots is a precious community resource which brings people and families together from all backgrounds and ages to learn more about gardening and make healthier, positive changes in their lives!

On this Saturday morning, our Shine City Project volunteers arrived for the first time at Vegas Roots! After walking through the main entrance, we were greeted by a wide, open space that was filled with various plants and things waiting to be discovered! On site, we also met Gabriel, Lead Agricultural Engineer for Vegas Roots. After taking care of some paperwork, we learned more about the garden, as well as our task for the morning. Our Shine City Project team was responsible for helping to clear out grass and weeds that grew in between the rows of vegetables. By removing these invaders, more water and nutrients can be absorbed and taken in by the vegetables that are growing.



Our Shine City Project team had five volunteers who came to support the project! Out of our volunteers, we had two veteran volunteers who had been heavily involved in our early years of Shine City Project, Linh and Dianne! To remove these invasive plants, our volunteers put on some gloves and grabbed some shovels. Overall, it was hard work digging out the grass and weeds that required both our upper and lower body strength. Though sometimes we would get thirsty and need to rehydrate, we didn't feel so physically tired, as we could recharge with our conversations with one another! Additionally, as we were digging, we found some creatures that we don't usually see - worms! It was fascinating whenever we came across a worm.

In the end, our Shine City Project volunteers were able to fill an entire garbage can with weeds and grass! After the service project, we took time to walk around the garden and look at all the fruits and vegetables that grew there. It was surprising to see that there were various things being grown, especially corn! Afterwards, we went to a nearby park and celebrated Linh's birthday! Overall, it was a great time at the Vegas Roots Community Garden, and we hope to come again soon!