



The Elizabethan Gardens, a non-profit garden and tranquil oasis nestled in Manteo, NC, received a donation of 1,000 redbud tree seedlings in October 2020 from Dominion Energy's Project Plant It!, an environmental stewardship program that promotes planting trees and learning about the benefits of trees to the ecosystem.

As one of the first trees to bloom in the spring, redbuds feature striking, deep pink blossoms and heart-shaped green leaves that turn amber in the fall. In addition to beautifying our community, the redbud blossoms attract bees and other pollinators, which is essential to the environmental sustainability of the nation's food system.

When asked what The Elizabethan Gardens will do with 1,000 redbud trees, Carl V. Curnutte, Executive Director of The Elizabethan Gardens, said, "Well, we'll share them of course!" And, that is just what they did! The Elizabethan Gardens offered the seedlings to their guests, visitors, members and community.

Some of the lucky recipients of the redbud seedlings were team members at The Outer Banks Hospital and Medical Group. The Elizabethan Gardens offered more than 350 redbud seedlings to the healthcare workers at the Hospital and Medical Group as a thank you for their continued work surrounding COVID-19 and keeping our community safe. (Con't on page 2.)

"When Dominion Energy partnered with The Elizabethan Gardens with the donation of redbud seedlings, Dominion Energy's External Affairs Manager, Winnie Wiseman and I immediately thought about those on the frontline and the service they are giving to our community," said Curnutte. "The Outer Banks Hospital and the men and women who are working in this challenging time have the support and respect of our community. The redbud is a tree that is valued far more than its small size might suggest. This lovely harbinger of spring has been called 'a breath of fresh air after a long winter' and experts agree it is one of our most beautiful native trees. We wanted those on the frontline to have the gift of 'fresh air' in their own yards in appreciation for all they are doing during this difficult time."

In the days leading up to the tree distribution in November 2020, team members were very excited about receiving this unique gift from The Elizabethan Gardens and Dominion Energy. Hospital leadership utilized the tree distribution as the start of a month-long conversation about caring. In addition to receiving a redbud seedling, team members were also given a mindful reflection about how good caring for each other feels. Almost all of the trees were distributed, and the trees that weren't given to team members, were planted on the hospital campus and at our medical group locations.

A huge thank you to The Elizabethan Gardens and Dominion Energy for the wonderful feeling our team members felt about being cared for and celebrated with the redbud seedlings!

Members of The Outer Banks Hospital Development Council include: Sandy Martin, chair; Tim Cafferty, Roberta Graham; Kaye Jones; Tess Judge; Myra Ladd-Bone; Natalie McIntosh; Marie Neilson; Teresa Osborne; Cindy Thornsvard; Casey Varnell; Winnie Wiseman







Reflection

A relationship is like a garden. To create a condition that will cause your plants to thrive and produce abundantly, you must weed, water, fertilize, and care for the plants. You must also know the special needs of the plants you're caring for. - Chris Prentiss

We don't always think about how our caring acts support our own wellbeing.

Over the next several weeks, we will discuss how caring helps you flourish and even thrive amidst challenging times.

Thanks to the Elizabethan Gardens for caring for our team members, we have Redbud tree seedlings available for you. Pop-ups with these trees will take place this week and next throughout the hospital and medical group.

As you care for these trees and in spring enjoy their beautiful red buds, pink blossoms, and heart-shaped green leaves, reflect on the beauty that you create each and every day by caring for others.



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