



November 17, 2010

Greetings from The Gardens:

It's been a tough couple years, hasn't it? It seems like we're all worn down by the economy, split over politics and stressed about the environment.

We need a place to de-stress, and we need some positive news. All of us here at The Gardens believe we can deliver both – with a little help from you.

Volunteers, staff, board – **and all of our generous supporters** – have done a tremendous job for the Gardens, for the city, for our region – for all of us! We never quit. We continue to provide an aesthetically pleasing place of solace and spirituality, your only home for botanical and conservation education – and butterflies!

Just the kind of place we all need.

We've got lots of work to do just to maintain what we've got. That's the reason for this annual appeal. It takes all of us to keep this place going – you, me, a talented staff and all our dedicated volunteers.

And, it takes money. To be exact, it takes \$4.00 per yard.

That's right. It costs us \$4.00 to maintain every three-foot by three-foot square of this Garden. We maintain 13-plus acres, **62,500 square yards of property**. Multiply that times \$4, and you get **\$250,000 a year**. That's our annual budget!

\$250,000 a year to water 13 gardens, maintain one of only 325 butterfly houses in the world, provide educational opportunities to the entire school district, maintain that incredible Tropical Rainforest, re-create the Children's Garden after vandals struck.

We grow spectacular botanical specimens in our Gardens. Money, however, doesn't grow on any of our trees. Wish it did. But you can help us grow if you'll simply Adopt-a-Yard. Encourage your friends to adopt a yard or two, too!

We are on a mission to keep all of us connected to the beauty of the Colorado River Basin and Plateau by providing opportunities for education, science, conservation and community events.

We can't do it without you.

Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

Bill Haggerty
Chairman, Board of Directors
Western Colorado Botanical Gardens

