

Refugees Plant New Roots in San Diego

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What was once an empty lot in a barren neighborhood in the City Heights section of San Diego has been completely transformed--to a farm. The New Roots Community Farm, a project that has been in the works for two years, will open officially on Thursday, September 10.

The farm was developed by refugee aid group the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to provide fresh, sustainable produce to families that may not otherwise have been able to afford it.

Its farmers are eighty families of refugees who hail from Guatamala to Cambodia--many of which were skilled farmers in their native countries.

They plan to sell their vegetables to the community at the local farmers market, creating a new source of income, as well as food, for the families.

"Now the Somali Bantu are talking to the Mexicans and the Mexicans to the Cambodians," Amy Lint, IRC-San Diego's Community Development who worked closely on the project. "They are finding they have a lot in common, a lot to share on the topic of food."

The New Roots Community Farm is located at 54th Street and Chollas Parkway, San Diego, CA.

photo via San Diego City Beat