

# Glastonbury, CT Pollinator Pathway Creates Pollinator Food Bank

By Lisa Eldridge

**This past summer, the Glastonbury Pollinator Pathway group did a project with the Glastonbury Inclusive Volunteers. We created our own seed packet labels and packaged 800 one-ounce seed packets to give away to Glastonbury residents. It was so popular that we are ordering more seeds so we can make 800 more seed packets! This idea came from a project that was done in the Netherlands.**



Shawnee Baldwin, a member of Glastonbury Pollinator Pathway, learned about a man from the Netherlands who started a food bank for bees. The idea is to hand out free packets of native seeds to anyone who is interested in planting them. Our group thought it looked like a great idea and we decided we would like to do something similar in Glastonbury.

First we calculated how much the project would cost. We wanted to buy 50 pounds of American Meadows Northeast Wildflower Seed Mix to make 800 1-ounce seed packets. Then we needed to create our labels and buy seed packets. This would cost about \$1200, and since our group has such a small budget, we needed to figure out how we would raise the money. Shawnee received a \$1000 donation from the Acacia Zawadi Fund and so now we could move forward!



In the meantime, we were contacted by the Glastonbury Partners in Planting committee who said that the Glastonbury Inclusive Volunteers were looking for projects to do with other groups. We reached out to Tony Bushley, a Loomis student who had received a grant to do outdoor projects with special needs young adults. Tony said that his group would be very interested in joining up with our Glastonbury Pollinator Pathway group to help package the seeds and to do some planting at one of our pollinator gardens in town.

**On August 6th, members from Glastonbury Pollinator Pathway and Glastonbury Inclusive Volunteers worked together in the new Maker Space at Welles Turner Memorial Library in Glastonbury to put together 800 seed packets. We distributed them from several locations in town and we also advertised on social media. It proved to be so popular that we are ordering 50 more pounds of seeds, using funds from our first golf tournament fundraiser held in May 2022.**