

May 2, 2020

For Immediate Release:

Kish annual spring plant sale happening May 8 to benefit the COVID-19 Student Relief Fund

The horticulture department at Kishwaukee College will be holding their annual Spring Plant Sale on May 8 from 7:00 am – 2:00 pm in the greenhouse located on the north side of campus. All proceeds from the plant sale will support the Kishwaukee College Foundation’s COVID-19 Student Relief Scholarship Fund to help students facing financial challenges due to the pandemic. Patrons must secure a 20-minute timeslot reservation by making a donation via Eventbrite to shop in the greenhouse.

The Kish Foundation launched a COVID-19 Student Relief Scholarship Fund on April 20 with \$50,000 from the Foundation. The Fund provides scholarship support to students impacted by the pandemic. Proceeds from the plant sale will go to the COVID-19 Student Relief Scholarship Fund to support more students. To date, 88 students have applied, and the Foundation anticipates the number of applications to increase the longer the stay-at-home order is in effect.

All plant material was grown in the College greenhouse by students, under the direction of the horticulture faculty, until the stay-at-home order was enacted. “It is so cool – they literally grew scholarships,” remarks Chase Budziak, dean of instruction. Rich Alde, assistant professor of horticulture, reports this is the best crop he has seen in all of his time at Kish.

The plant sale will include annuals, perennials, vegetables, and herbs. There are also hanging baskets and large bags of quality potting mix (2.8 cu. ft.) for sale.

Timeslots must be purchased to shop the plant sale. There is no general admission. Social distancing measures and face masks will be enforced for safety. Four timeslots are available for reservation for each 20-minute interval. One patron per timeslot reservation will be allowed in the greenhouse. Additional guests will be asked to remain in their vehicles or outside and follow social distancing guidelines.

Individuals may purchase more than one timeslot at adjacent times to extend their shopping time. The cost of timeslots decreases throughout the day as inventory decreases. Payment for plant material can be made by check or exact cash only. No change will be given.

Horticulture staff will be on site during the sale to assist patrons and answer gardening and/or planting questions. Members of the horticulture program can assist with plant selection to suit specific needs or wants.

Individuals who purchase timeslots should enter campus using the north (B) entrance on Malta Road and turn right. Directional signs will be posted. Arriving early is encouraged for prompt entrance. Patrons will only be permitted in the greenhouse during their reservation time.

To purchase a 20-minute timeslot for the Kish spring plant sale, visit <https://kcfplantsale2020.eventbrite.com/>

For more information about the annual plant sale benefitting COVID-19 Student Scholarships, contact Kayte Hamel, executive director of the Kish Foundation, at khamel@kish.edu.

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