

Rescue Mission's Village of Hope garden goes organic



Volunteers Steven Fairchild, from left, Phuong Nguyen and Linh Huynh replaced the soil in 20 garden beds at the Village of Hope.

> CHERYL A. GUERRERO/
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The garden at the Orange County Rescue Mission's Village of Hope is getting a makeover.

First, the dirt in 20 garden beds was replaced with donated organic soil.

Then, groOrganic will create a design plan to determine where certain plants should grow.

On Feb. 27, members of groOrganic will help Village of Hope residents and volunteers plant seeds. GroOrganic workers will teach the residents how to care for the crops, which will be used to feed the 200 residents of the Village of Hope on the former Tustin Marine base.

The garden company, founded by Karen Cancilla, is working with residents and Village food services to decide what fruits, herbs and vegetables to plant. Once the seeds have been planted, company representatives will check in frequently to answer questions and to teach more about gardening, Cancilla said.

She's also considering starting a gardening certification program for residents who learn how to maintain the garden.

- Elysse James