

GARDENER PERSPECTIVE – Quick Reference Guide

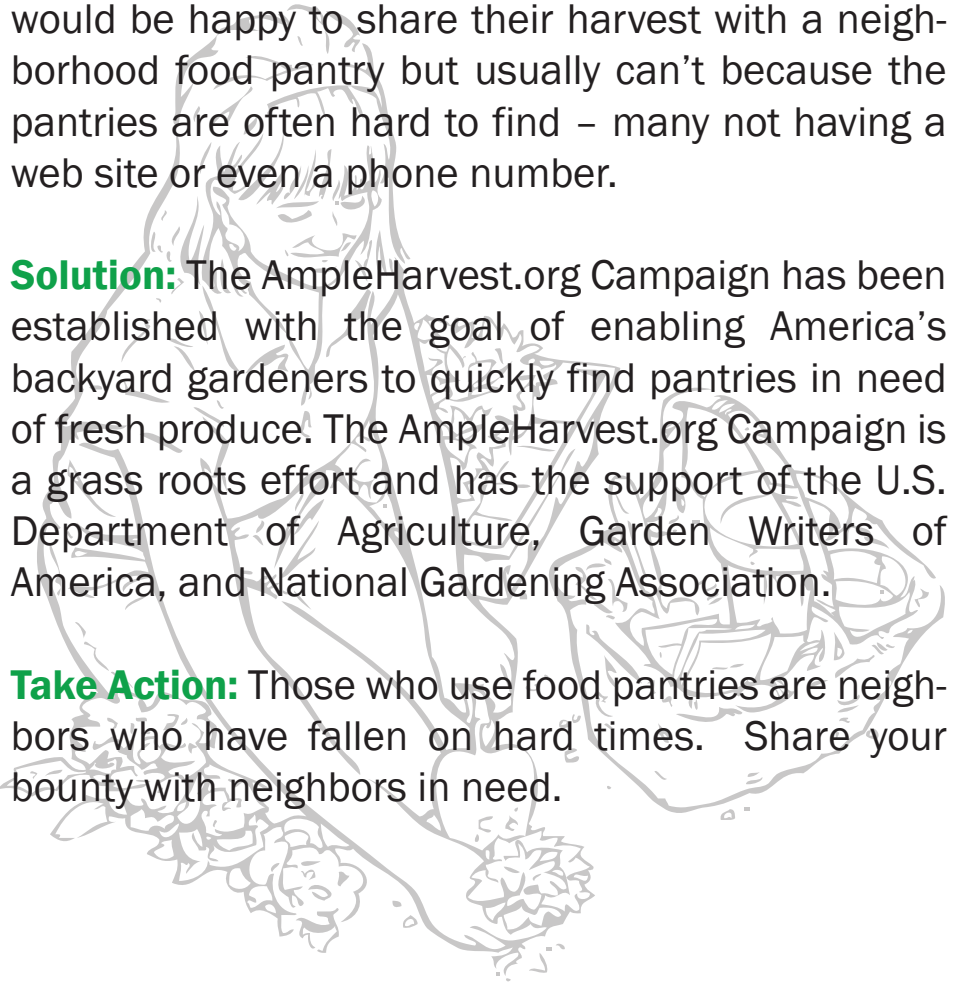
Problem: One out of six Americans does not have access to healthy fresh food at their neighborhood food pantry.



Opportunity: Millions of backyard gardeners in the United States leave large amounts of their garden produce unharvested when more food grows than they could possibly use. These backyard gardeners would be happy to share their harvest with a neighborhood food pantry but usually can't because the pantries are often hard to find – many not having a web site or even a phone number.

Solution: The AmpleHarvest.org Campaign has been established with the goal of enabling America's backyard gardeners to quickly find pantries in need of fresh produce. The AmpleHarvest.org Campaign is a grass roots effort and has the support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Garden Writers of America, and National Gardening Association.

Take Action: Those who use food pantries are neighbors who have fallen on hard times. Share your bounty with neighbors in need.



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Getting Started:

First things first. Locate a food pantry in your area by visiting www.AmpleHarvest.org/findpantry

Delivering the goods. Before making the trip to deliver your crops make sure you check the pantry listing to verify the time period when donations will be accepted. For optimal results, harvest crops in the early morning on the day of delivery.

Inspect what you expect. Each item should be visually inspected for serious bruising, insect damage, and ripeness. Do not donate produce that you would not buy for your own family.

No one likes a pest. If pesticides are used in your garden, please take the time to clean each piece of produce before donating.

Paper or plastic? Unless the pantry listing states otherwise, package your produce in paper supermarket bags in preparation for pantry delivery.

Share the wealth. If multiple pantries are registered in your area try to rotate your seasonal donations amongst them. Remember, food pantries are being added on a daily basis so bookmark our site!

Stay involved. Even when the growing season ends you can continue to work with area food pantries and impact your community by providing store bought items which are needed year around. Don't forget to check those expiration dates!

Every bit helps. Keep in mind that any produce you donate will be pooled with that of other backyard gardeners in your area. Your bounty, large or small, will help to diminish hunger in America.

Was it something I ate? In the event someone becomes ill after eating items you donated, you are protected by the Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act. The Act is intended to encourage donations of food to nonprofit organizations while providing the donor with "Good Samaritan" protection. You are provided protection from criminal and civil liability providing you did not exhibit gross negligence. The text of the act is at www.usda.gov/news/pubs/gleaning/appc.htm

Beyond the backyard. Educate your local gardening community about AmpleHarvest.org Campaign and encourage those with extra produce to get involved and donate. Generate additional visibility beyond backyard gardeners by posting www.AmpleHarvest.org/gardenshop on community bulletin boards and in locations which offer lawn/gardening products.

Pass it on. The viability of the AmpleHarvest.org campaign remains dependent on individuals spreading the word. Backyard gardeners with food to share can't if they don't know that a neighborhood pantry even exists. AmpleHarvest.org gives food pantries the opportunity to be registered in a central nationwide directory so that gardeners and other donors can share their fresh produce and, garden-by-garden, help diminish hunger in America. Reach out to the food pantries in your area and make sure they know that registration is quick, easy, - and free! Please pass this link along to any pantry interested in registering www.AmpleHarvest.org/newpantry

Thanks for your support! Your support of the AmpleHarvest.org Campaign can help reduce global warming, improve the quality of food available to pantries and let neighbors in need know that their fellow Americans care about them.