

Dear Master Gardeners:

As Master Gardeners, we are in a unique position to help eliminate hunger and food waste in our communities. The USDA Master Gardener Program has been partnering since 2009 with a nationwide nonprofit called AmpleHarvest.org that works to reach the 40+ million gardeners across the country that are growing fruits, vegetables, herbs or nuts in their backyard or community gardens, and they need our help.

Gardeners who have a bountiful harvest can donate their excess produce to a food pantry in their area. You can find the pantries closest to you [here](#) and know that every pantry listed on this free online database is eager to accept donations of fresh food. Instead of throwing those extra cucumbers in the compost pile, you can get them directly into the hands of hungry families near you.

If you are working with Plant A Row, you should still inform your community about AmpleHarvest.org since the two programs complement each other.

Please share this with your local Master Gardeners and the growers they are working with. We can diminish hunger by reaching into our garden beds. Here's a [short video](#) for you about AmpleHarvest.org and how we can work together. The growers in your community can "own" hunger and food waste by visiting [AmpleHarvest.org's National Day of Service](#) site.

AmpleHarvest.org will soon launch a Facebook photo contest starting July 1st through which growers can win a \$300 gift certificate to Gardener's Supply Company. Be sure to "like" them on [Facebook](#) so you can submit a photo of your garden-grown donations and enter to win.

Thank you.

AmpleHar**est.org** ^(SM)
"Sharing your garden bounty with Neighbors in Need"