

Annual Report 2021

WHAT WE'VE BEEN UP
TO IN THE PAST YEAR

[AMPLEHARVEST.ORG](https://ampleharvest.org)



Our Vision

AmpleHarvest.org is wholly different from other food recovery or food waste programs.

We empower gardeners to solve food insecurity in their own communities by creating a custom food pantry search engine for gardeners seeking a local pantry eager for their surplus harvest.

AmpleHarvest.org's solution disrupts the food chain, supports community engagement, and enables a wholesale change in the awareness and behavior of the gardening community, ultimately changing the quality of food available to food insecure families. Once the gardener and a pantry are linked, that link continues in perpetuity. Our program spreads virally in the gardening world, allowing us to create a permanent behavioral change even among gardeners who have never heard of our organization.

AmpleHarvest.org's vision of the future is one in which donating surplus food from your garden will become ubiquitous. Communities will come together to eliminate food insecurity themselves with healthy fresh food grown by local gardeners. Gardeners who grow surplus food will know that they can donate it to food pantries and will do so as a matter of routine.

Our vision is to enable America's home/community gardeners to permanently end food waste and hunger/malnutrition in every community in the country.





Founder's Letter

Depending on your family's tradition, you may have participated in a "coming of age" ceremony such as a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, Confirmation, Quinceañera/Quince Años, sweet sixteen, or it might have been marked by getting a driver's license. They all, in some way, mark your transition from youth to adulthood.

Similarly, 2021 marked the coming of age for AmpleHarvest.org. We started as a one-person, scrappy nonprofit with an exciting hunger/food waste model. We transitioned to a more mature nonprofit with a great team and an entirely new web platform (the old one was hand coded in 2009!) thanks to Bonnie Plants.



We overhauled our internal operations to ensure our data and data management are state of the art and expanded our board of directors to include more of the expertise and corporate support that will help AmpleHarvest.org further its work.

2021 marked the coming of age for AmpleHarvest.org

We did this all while doing what we've been doing since day one: adding new pantries nationwide and then educating and enabling America's gardeners to donate their surplus harvest. Our ultimate goal is to make donating surplus harvests as commonplace as donating unneeded clothing to a thrift shop. It will be something that every gardener will just know about and act on.

Like most nonprofit founders, in the early days of AmpleHarvest.org, I was the chief cook and bottle washer (ok... so I am not a great cook). Over time, as funders started supporting us, AmpleHarvest.org was able to bring in staff to do much of the work.

But we are not done yet.

Today, AmpleHarvest.org is hard at work with a small but mighty staff, remotely using various technological tools to expand into 4,200 communities in all 50 states. We are helping hungry families that rely on 8,000 food pantries, get healthier food – this year and for decades to come. We are working to create a special program for Indian Country to help all First Peoples donate to their neighbors in need, and we plan to expand into Puerto Rico and the territories. We're expanding our ProducePedia resource that helps families taking home donated produce, learn more about that food. We'll be looking to help more faith leaders and people of faith learn about the waste of food from their own faith perspective, and we'll be working hard to make sure our food pantry data remains current (no easy task).

Most importantly, we'll be working hard to make sure that every gardener in America that has grown more than they can use, preserve, or share with friends, will be able to find a nearby food pantry to which they can donate it.

Although I initiated and started AmpleHarvest.org, it has been you – the people donating money and the gardener who donates food, who has made it possible for us to grow and mature. The financial support we continue to receive from our generous donors is what makes it possible for the harvest donors to do their part.

Thank you everyone for helping AmpleHarvest.org reach this “coming of age” point. We are looking forward to working with you as we continue to grow, share our harvests, and nourish our communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Oppenheimer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "G" and "O".

Gary Oppenheimer

Founder and Executive Director

Letter From the Board President

When I was first introduced to AmpleHarvest.org, I was struck by the simplicity and power of the idea – connect a naturally occurring surplus (excess garden produce) with a need that exists in essentially every community in the country (the food insecure). I was particularly struck by how making it easy for gardeners to donate their excess produce to local food pantries was such a simple solution to multiple issues: ending hunger, providing more nutritious food than is typically available at food pantries, and reducing food waste.

Almost ten years later, I remain struck by the outsized impact of this organization and inspired by the opportunity ahead. My aim as Board President is to help steer AmpleHarvest.org as it enters this next phase, increasing the number of people we help and making strides toward our goal of ending hunger.



We'll do this by improving our internal systems, expanding into new territories, and raising awareness of the importance of donating surplus produce. As Gary mentioned in his Founder's Letter, our ultimate goal is to make donating surplus harvests as commonplace as donating unneeded clothing to a thrift shop.

Whether you donate produce, manage a food pantry, or contribute financially, thank you for your support of AmpleHarvest.org. Each of you has played an important role in getting the organization to where it is today, and will continue to help us as we continue this mission.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Wendy Gonzalez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Wendy" being more prominent than the last name "Gonzalez".

Wendy Gonzalez

Board President



Our Impact

- Individual donors made it possible to add 214 pantries
- Corporate partners empowered us to upgrade and relaunch our systems and the AmpleHarvest.org website
- Helped 68,636 people find their nearest food pantry
- 416,175 visits to AmpleHarvest.org
- Reached 1.37 million people via Google Ads boosting awareness, so they knew they could donate garden produce!
- In 2021 the number of gardeners donating increased to 41% from 8.6%



Clients at Share Food Share Love Pantry love garden fresh carrot donations

New Food Pantries

The demand to address food insecurity in communities across the U.S. has increased significantly over the past year due to the impact of COVID 19. Food pantries that were able to keep their doors open saw a tremendous increase in the number of people they served. Unfortunately, the pandemic also forced some pantries to temporarily shut their doors both literally in their community and virtually on AmpleHarvest.org. **Despite these tumultuous circumstances, AmpleHarvest.org welcomed 214 new food pantries and food assistance programs.**



Clients at Frankfort Township Food Pantry would especially love donations of tomatoes, onions, potatoes, lettuce, green peppers



Lighthouse Outreach Ministries, Inc
Ebenezer SDA
4KEEPS Mobile Pantry
The United Methodist Center of Far Rockaway
Mechanicville Area Community Services Center
The Chapel Pantry/Eastern Shore Chapel
Home House of Erie Food Pantry
Unique Love Community Foundation
4Cs Food Pantry
Glen-Ed Pantry
St Andrews Food Center
BGCLAH Weekend Wellness
Ministry at Nine Mile
ACTION Food Pantry
SPIRIT of Santa Paula
Helping Hands Ministries
West Valley Food Pantry
Veterans Food Pantry
People's Pantry
The River Community Food Pantry

Citizens for Citizens Inc
Widows Barrel Food Pantry
St. Vincent de Paul
Jubilee Center of Midland
Daniel's Table, Inc
New Providence Food Pantry
Ohio County Food Pantry
Sandwich Food Pantry, Inc.
CORMII Community Development Corporation
Martin County Food Pantry
Calvary Fresh Market
The Anchor Food Pantry
Light of the world mission
Esthers Closet
Mentoring Through Athletics
Brookline Food Pantry
She Believes in Me
Let's Be Whole Healthy Food Pantry Pop Up
St Paul Hometown Community Pantry Box
Oak Chapel UMC Hub

Cherry Carson Assembly of God Church
Bulldog Pantry
Blessed Hope Food Pantry
Jewish Family Services of Washtenaw County
Nutrition Services and Specialty Food Pantry
Christ Episcopal Church
Leslys CPR
School Street Food Pantry
St Andrew Christian Care
Acord Food Pantry
Helps on the Way
St. Francis House Food Pantry
Snoqualmie Valley Food Bank
Tricity Pantry
Long Beach Soup Kitchen
Bread of Life
Footprints of Montgomery
Pathway to Knowledge
Warrick County Christian Resource Center
Fall City Community Food Pantry
Southern York County Pantry
LISTEN
Operation Care
Hope Food Pantry
Cando Area Food Pantry
Food Pantry-Mosholu Montifiore Community Center
James O. Bryant Food Pantry
St. Vincent de Paul Neenah
Northern Nevada Dream Center
Logan County Food Pantry Cooperative
LSUS Food Pantry
Winnemucca Food Bank
King's Portion Community Food Pantry
Lovell Community Food Pantry
Helping Hands Community Services
Caritas of Port Chester
The Youth Academy for the Arts, Inc.
Holy Spirit St. Vincent dePaul
LCS Food Pantry at St. Stephen
Hatfield Church of the Brethren
First Lutheran Food Pantry
New Hope Village, Inc.
Sincerely Paul Feeding His Sheep
DuBois Area Food Pantry
University of Montana Food Pantry
New Jerusalem Missions Food Pantry
Neighbors Helping Neighbors, Inc
Naugatuck Valley Soup Kitchen
Foundry United Methodist Church
The Hunger Coalition
Kiwanis Sisters Food Bank
Hebron Food Pantry
Gateway Christian Center
St. Cyril and Methodius Parish Outreach
Family Life Education Community Food Pantry
Center Grove Baptist church
William Temple House
Southington Bread for Life
The Rose Apartments Food Closet
Jewish Community Council of the Rockaway

Table of Plenty Outreach
Outside In
Nimmo's Garden Pantry
The Community Food Connection
Woodstock Hope Center
Mercy Housing Anaheim
Village Food Pantry at PCOM
Protect the Angels, Inc.
St. Helena
Arm In Arm
Hope House Ministries
Feeding with TLC, Inc.
Hearty Helpings Food Pantry
Butner Church Council Food Pantry
Station Place Tower Pantry
Trinity CC
Franklin Food Pantry
MCFOODS
HighPoint Charitable Services
Operation Liberty Hill
Pat's Pantry
Mission First Pottstown
St James Food Pantry
Ciudad de Refugio
Five Loaves and Two fish Food Pantry
Friend, Inc. Community Services
Lompoc Food Pantry - Catholic Charities
The Pantry
Vegan Love We Deliver
Gifts of Grace
WMBC Food Pantry
Carey AME Temple Church
The Hope Center of Maryland
Staten Island Community Partnership
Paiges Pantry
Yuba-Sutter Foodbank
Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry
Prince William Food Rescue
Rural Relief Mobile Food Pantry
Papermill Food Hub
Chapel Kitchen
Every Meal
West Valley Community Services
The StoreHouse
Slidell Masjid Food Pantry
Breaking Bread Outreach, Inc.
Gaia's Garden Food Pantry
The Rock Church Food Pantry
Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry
Medina Senior Center/MOW
Road To Hope
Hubbard County Food Shelf, Inc.
Corner Market at JFCS
We Care and Friends
The Food Brigade Inc.
Trinity Lutheran Church Food Ministry
Joseph House Community Outreach Center
JEE Foods
Monacan Indian Nation Food Bank
Greenbrier Community Church

Pantry Spotlight

American Legion 28 Food Pantry Spartanburg, SC

Tell us about the community you serve?

Spartanburg, there is only one! Spartanburg is a city in northern South Carolina. We serve the southside residents of Spartanburg. For more than a century, Spartanburg's southside has been the setting for a vibrant district of African American owned businesses and residential homes. There's a lot of elderly people that live on the southside, and they need groceries and fresh produce. The food pantry is helpful to this community. We have a lot of people who walk to the food pantry.

What would you like to tell gardeners in your community about the food pantry?

Gardeners need to know that the American Legion 28 food bank serves the entire community (not just Veterans) with not only fresh produce, but also groceries, nutritional education, and we teach self-sufficiency. Local gardeners help our food pantry's mission by directly serving residents on the southside who suffer from hunger and food insecurity.



How important are fresh produce donations to your food pantry and what is requested most by your clients?

Fresh fruits and vegetables are an important part of a healthy diet. They contain essential vitamins, minerals, fiber and other nutrients that are essential for good health. In fact, research has shown that a healthy diet rich in fruits and vegetables may reduce the risk of cancer and other chronic diseases.

We hear a lot of requests for potatoes, corn, squash, zucchini, string beans, okra, cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, and big boy tomatoes.

American Legion 28 would like to thank AmpleHarvest.org.

AmpleHarvest.org is a blessing. We appreciate everything they do to help food banks across the country.

New Website

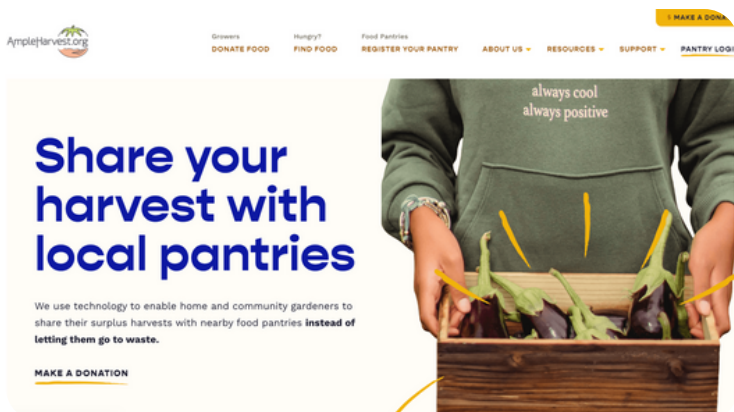
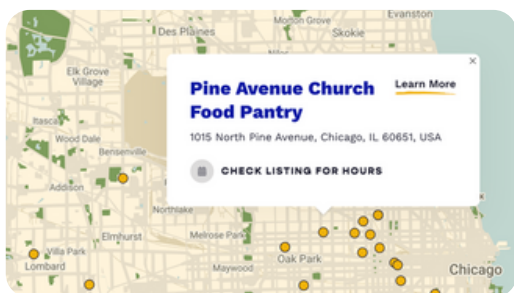
For most organizations, a web site is the “brochure” that tells people about the work they do.

For AmpleHarvest.org, the web site is the heart of the work we do. It helps America’s gardeners learn about their opportunity to donate surplus harvests, it enables food pantries nationwide to receive the gardener’s surplus harvests, it helps hungry families find a nearby food pantry, and yes... it is also our brochure.

The original web site, hand coded by two volunteers in 2009 and cosmetically updated by volunteers at Blackrock in 2018, was in dire need of a total rebuild. Thanks to a very generous donation from Bonnie Plants and an amazing web design firm Studio Simpatico, we did just that.

Everything about the new site – the look, the technology and its story telling approach, was designed to make it easier for any user on any platform to donate food, get food, or just learn about our work.

Some of the new features include enabling gardeners to find a pantry open on a specific day/time, Google street images making it easier for donors to find the pantry, a dramatically improved donor experience, capacity to accept photos of donated food, and ProducePedia to help pantry clients learn about the donated fresh food. In the upcoming months, we’ll start providing guidance to pantries about what’s currently being harvested locally.



Having Faith in Ending the Waste of Food

Sometimes, a great idea comes from a single number, and in this case, it's 70%.

Nationwide, 70% of all food pantries operate out of a house of worship, and that makes the faith community an excellent partner for AmpleHarvest.org.

In 2016, we launched a program we then called "Food Waste Weekend" (since renamed to "[Faith Fights Food Waste](#)") to help clergy of all faiths learn about and then give a sermon on all aspects of the issue of the waste of food from their own faith perspective. In the process, it would give the congregants, especially those who are gardeners, the opportunity to learn about reducing the waste of food by donating their garden surplus.

While Faith Fights Food Waste was designed as a program for faith leaders, we enhanced the program in early 2020 to meet the needs of people of faith who didn't attend a house of worship, by enabling them to participate from home.



As many houses of worship restricted or eliminated in person services during the pandemic, this helped meet the needs of these congregants while at home.

Although AmpleHarvest.org is a non-faith based nonprofit, we realized that more than 80 million people nationwide are people of faith and participate in religious activities on a weekly basis, and an estimated 16 million of them are gardeners.

Building on the work of the past four years, AmpleHarvest.org will be working to greatly increase the number of clergy nationwide who'll be preaching about food waste. You are encouraged to invite your faith leader to visit [FaithFightsFoodWaste.org](#). The next time they give a sermon on helping to feed the hungry or reducing climate change, they'll also be able speak to ending the waste of food as a critically important yet simple solution to these issues. We have faith in that.

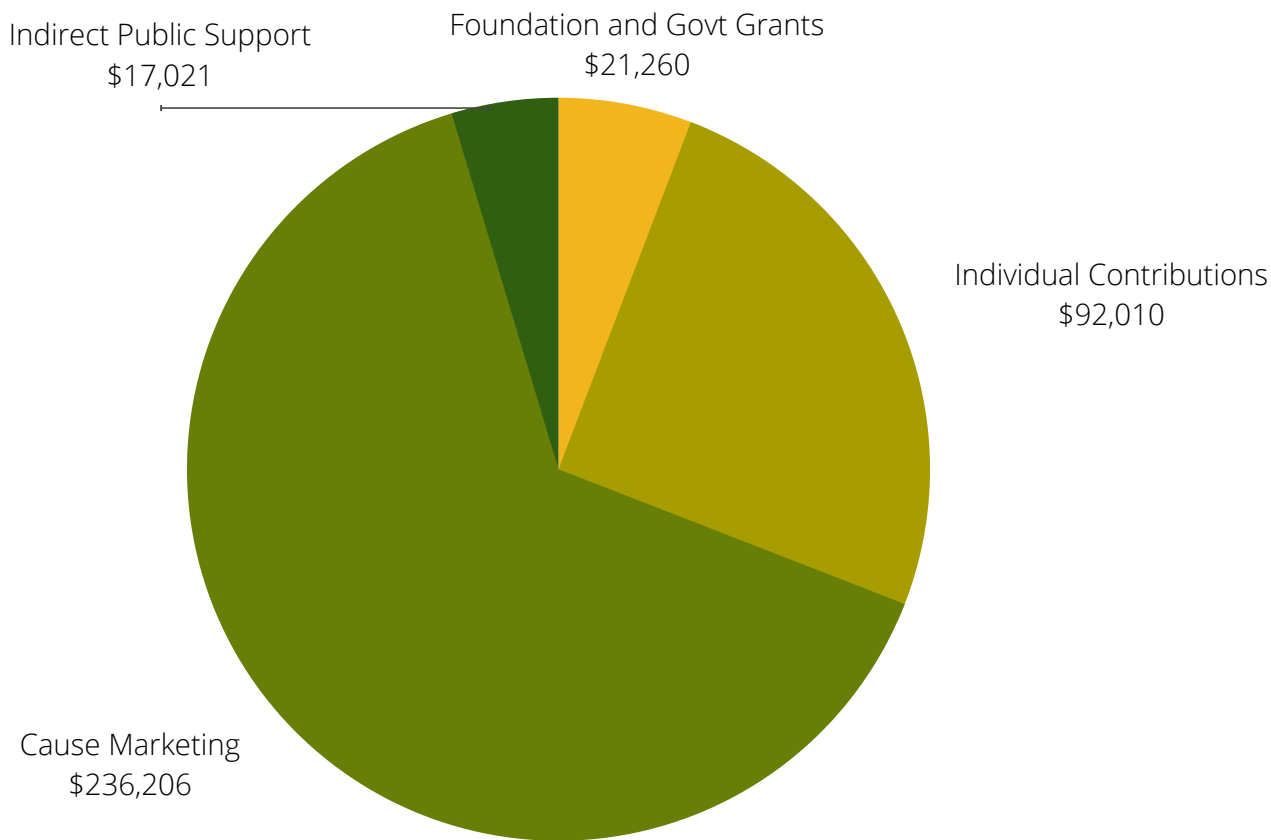
Financials

AmpleHarvest.org was able to complete a total rebuild of our website and internal databases in 2021 thanks to generous support from Bonnie Plants and our individual donors. These upgrades have improved both organizational efficiency, and the quality of our services to both gardeners and food pantries.

AmpleHarvest.org also received continuing support from Google and Xandr in the form of in-kind donations to support our online advertising and public awareness campaigns. These in-kind donations allow us to spread awareness of our program and educate the American public about the severity of the hunger and food waste crisis. Since 2020, AmpleHarvest.org adjusted our PSA approach to increase efficiency by excluding all overseas advertising and focusing on the USA.

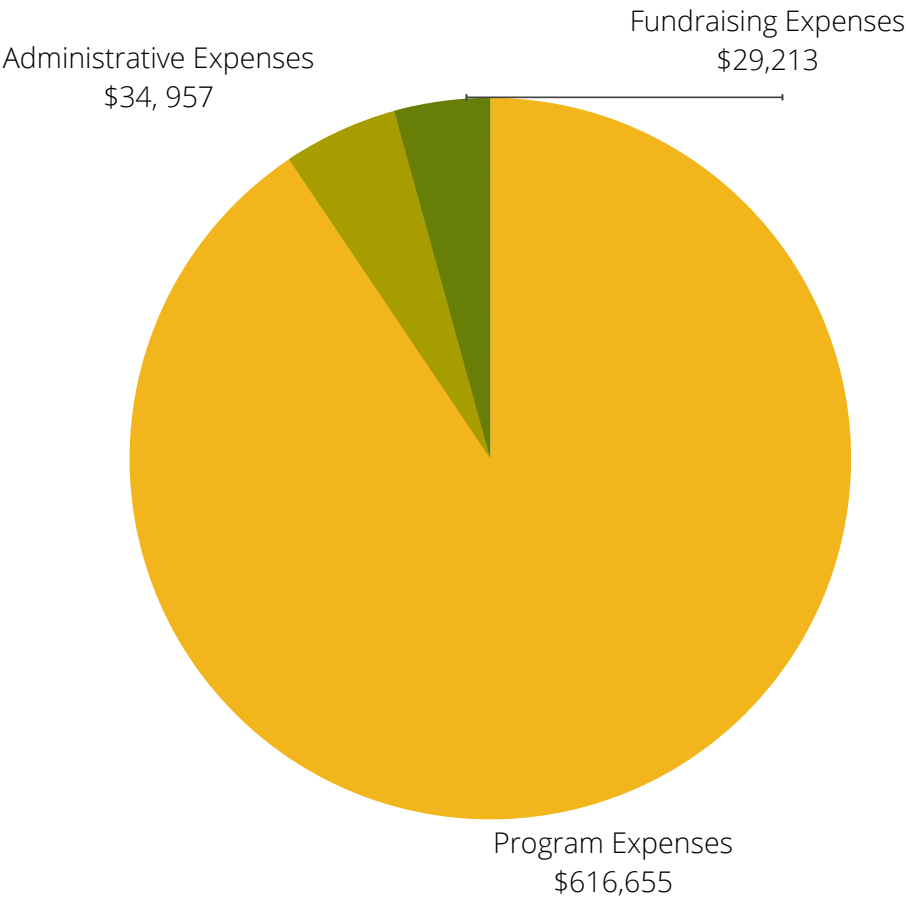


Revenue



Source	Revenue
Foundation and Government Grants	\$21,260
Individual Contributions	\$92,010
Cause Marketing	\$236,206
Indirect Public Support	\$17,021
Cash Total	\$366,497
Inkind	\$359,812
Cash + Inkind Total	\$726,309

Expenses



Type	Cash	Inkind	Total
Program Expenses	\$256,843	\$359,812	\$616,655
Administrative Expenses	\$34,957	\$0	\$34,957
Fundraising Expenses	\$29,213	\$0	\$29,213
	\$321,013	\$359,812	\$680,825

Thank You



- Albert & Ethel Herzstein Charitable Foundation
- Bonnie Plants
- Broadway Cares
- Clif Bar Family Foundation
- Freudenberg, e2
- Gardener's Supply Co.
- Google
- Harry Chapin Foundation
- Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare Foundation
- Midler Family Foundation
- Noble Vines
- Park Lawn Corporation
- Shikiar Family Foundation
- Xandr

We would like to thank all of our individual donors, partners, staff, volunteers, and board for their support in 2021.