



*From West Milford to the Nation*

## **What it is**

AmpleHarvest.org is a nearly 17-year-old, award-winning nationwide nonprofit that helps local food pantries receive donations of freshly harvested surplus food from home and community gardeners. It operates in all 50 states, supporting more than 8,300 food pantries in over 5,800 communities, including Native American reservations.

## **Where it began**

AmpleHarvest.org was founded in 2009 in West Milford, NJ, and remains based here today. What started as a local response to garden food going to waste while neighbors needed help grew into a nationwide solution now used across the country.

## **The Problem**

Millions of Americans face hunger and diet-related health challenges, while 62 million Americans grow food at home or in community gardens. Each year, billions of pounds of garden food go to waste. This gap exists not because of a lack of food, but because of misinformation and missing information that historically prevented garden food from reaching food pantries.

## **The Solution**

AmpleHarvest.org removes those barriers. Food pantries join once. Gardeners visit AmpleHarvest.org only one time to find a nearby pantry eager for fresh produce, and then donate for the rest of their gardening life. There are zero logistics, no storage or refrigeration, and no volunteers required. The program operates at zero cost to communities, and is so efficient that this nationwide program has a staff of only four people.

## **Why It Works**

This creates a hyperlocal solution operating on a nationwide scale. It works in urban, suburban, rural, and Tribal communities. It improves access to healthier food, strengthens the hunger safety net, and allows gardeners to help their neighbors with dignity.

## **Recognition**

AmpleHarvest.org has been recognized as a CNN Hero, won Points of Light, nominated for the World Food Prize, and partnered with the White House and the USDA and other national organizations. Most importantly, it is a solution inspired by and launched in West Milford.

## **What's Next**

The organization is expanding toward 10,000 communities nationwide, increasing education for families receiving fresh produce, and using technology and AI to keep pantry information accurate. The long-term goal is to make donating garden food as normal as recycling.

Learn More: [www.AmpleHarvest.org/WestMilford](http://www.AmpleHarvest.org/WestMilford) | [www.AmpleHarvest.org/Closeup](http://www.AmpleHarvest.org/Closeup)  
**West Milford didn't just inspire an idea - it launch a national movement.**