



ARKANSAS GLEANING PROJECT

ABOUT US

The Arkansas Gleaning Project is a statewide partnership among the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Society of St. Andrew (SOSA) and Arkansas growers. The project goal is to develop a reliable, sustainable and cost effective resource for fresh produce for those Arkansans that don't always know where they will get their next meal.

Providing fresh fruits and vegetables to people who are struggling with food insecurity is a big challenge. Thanks to the generosity of many growers and volunteers, Arkansans in need have access to nutritious produce like tomatoes, corn, onions, squash, cabbage, sweet potatoes, watermelon, carrots, fresh greens and more through local hunger agencies across the state.

GET INVOLVED

If you would like to donate your unharvested crops for the 2016 growing season, contact:

Brandon Chapman
Food Sourcing and Logistics Programs
Coordinator
bchapman@arhungeralliance.org
501.831.4159 (m) or 501.399.9999 (o)

Visit arhungeralliance.org to learn about volunteer opportunities and upcoming events.

To lend your support through a tax deductible in-kind or cash donation, visit arhungeralliance.org/donate.



The Arkansas Gleaning Project is a program of the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and Society of St. Andrew.



Local Produce Meeting Local Needs

Gleaning is the biblical practice of hand-gathering crops left after harvest. The Alliance and SoSA volunteers glean fields and orchards donated by growers. The produce is then given to food banks, local pantries, soup kitchen and shelters that feed or distribute food to their neighbors in need. The Alliance and its members serve over 900 hunger relief organizations in all 75 counties. The cost of operating the Arkansas Gleaning project averages less than 3 cents per pound of produce, and there is never a charge to the relief organizations.

Building and maintaining a successful network of growers and volunteers means reaching out to other organizations. The partnership between the Arkansas Gleaning Project and the Arkansas Department of Correction has proven very successful in increasing the amount of produce gleaned annually. Since the project began in 2008, **more than 8 million** pounds of produce has been gathered. The project expects to glean an additional 2.0 million pounds in 2016.

The Large and Small of It

The Arkansas Gleaning Project has only scratched the surface of fields in our state that could be available for gleaning. With the rise in urban gardening, we have introduced the *Grow-A-Row* program that pairs urban gardeners with local food pantries and other hunger agencies that are interested in helping with the maintenance of the garden, harvesting and transporting produce. With transportation and grocery costs on the rise, coupled with declining supplies of available food, Arkansas's food agencies need these local sources of food to meet the steadily increasing demands on the charitable food network.

Whether farming operations are large or small, unharvested or extra local produce is critical to helping feed the hungry in our state. If you or your organization would like to get involved in the Arkansas Gleaning Project or make a cash or in-kind donation, your generous contribution will go to help expand the charitable food network of which gleaning is an important part.

Be part of the solution.