

# AmpleHarvest.org

*"Sharing your garden bounty with Neighbors in Need"*

## Backyard Gardeners vs Hunger in America

No one needs to tell you, the people who operate food pantries, how difficult it is to meet the needs of your community today.

While you rely on regional food banks, government programs, local food stores and community generosity to help you keep your shelves stocked, in most cases, your clients rarely if ever find fresh produce available.

This is the challenge food pantries and their clients face nationwide.

America's backyard gardeners often face a wholly different challenge.

For many, it can feel like forever while they wait for their garden to start producing tomatoes, cucumbers, carrots, squash, etc. But once they start harvesting their crops, it comes with a vengeance.

The typical backyard gardener will consume as much of their harvest as possible, share some with their friends and neighbors, can, preserve or pickle some, and yet have more to harvest.

Despite that fact that an estimated 36 million Americans (12% of the population) are hungry and rely on local food pantries, many gardeners end up leaving a significant portion of their crop unharvested in their garden.

These gardeners would be happy to share some of their harvest with a nearby food pantry but usually don't because the neighborhood pantries are often hard to find - many not having a web site or even a phone number.

It does not have to be this way.

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To address this problem, the AmpleHarvest.org<sup>(SM)</sup> campaign has been established with the goal of enabling Americas backyard gardeners to quickly find local food pantries in need of fresh produce.

Registering your pantry is quick, simple and free. Just visit [www.AmpleHarvest.org](http://www.AmpleHarvest.org) and click on the

*Register A Food Pantry*

button to enter the

name, address, phone and other optional information about your pantry. The site also accepts additional text you might want to include ("*no more tomatoes this week please*" or "*we need tuna and soap*"). You can even supply a digital photograph of your location to make it easier to find. If you do not use the Internet, you can ask a friend to help you set it up.

Once registered, backyard gardeners wishing to donate fresh produce will be able to quickly find your pantry, contact information and the days and hours donations will be accepted. It also displays a map and optional driving instructions.

Don't worry if your pantry does not have refrigerated storage. Simply list the day[s] of the week and hours gardeners should deliver their crops and invite your clients come later that same day to get their garden fresh produce.

The AmpleHarvest.org campaign is a grass roots effort operating under a 501(3)(c) organization. Everyone involved has donated their time and talent. There are no fees when your pantry registers on the web site, nor when a gardener uses it.

Having as many food pantries as possible registered on AmpleHarvest.org will help diminish hunger in America. You can help us help you by sharing this brochure with other nearby pantries/agencies, or encouraging them to visit [www.AmpleHarvest.org](http://www.AmpleHarvest.org).

An estimated 100 billion pounds of food - enough to totally eliminate hunger in this country, is thrown away annually.

It does not have to be this way.