

# Salem Harvest News

Fall 2012



## *From the field to the table*

### *Salem Harvest and Marion-Polk Food Share feeds families in need*

You've just finished the cauliflower harvest. You are tired, and muddy, but satisfied. You filled your buckets a few times over, and now you're wondering if you can find your grandmother's recipe for cream of cauliflower soup.

But what happens to all of that cauliflower you helped pick and put in the Salem Harvest bins? Where does it go from there?

From the field, produce is placed into bins and totes by Salem Harvest volunteers and driven in the [Marion-Polk Food Share](#) (MPFS) truck to the MPFS itself. The produce is placed in coolers to keep it fresh until MPFS volunteers can repackage the produce into family-size boxes.

Marion-Polk Food Share works with over 97 non-profit partners that receive the food and distribute it to individuals and families in need.

In 2011, the MPFS distributed 8,233,422 pounds of food to its partners in Marion and Polk counties. One in five local families received at least one emergency food box in the past year.

"More individuals and families than ever before are seeking emergency food assistance in Marion and Polk counties," said Marion-Polk Food Share President Ron Hays in a recent press release. "The challenge to provide

enough nutritious food to meet the demand is greater than ever and we will be hard-pressed to keep pace without more help from our community."

MPFS distributes emergency food boxes to approximately 9,021 families per month. Children are particularly in need. "We are serving 2,600 more children each month now compared to a year ago," Hays reported.

"Marion-Polk Food Share is in awe with all that Salem Harvest has been able to accomplish this year," said Lindsay Adamson, Food Resource Coordinator for Marion-Polk Food Share. "They are an absolute gift to us. We feel so grateful that they share the vision of ending hunger in our communities and have chosen to partner with us.

"The fact that Salem Harvest is able to donate, not only food, but healthy, nutritious food for our families makes all the difference. We look forward to building and growing this relationship in the coming months and years," said Adamson.

Salem Harvest is honored to work with MPFS and help provide healthy, fresh produce for those individuals and families in need.

"Our community understands many people are going without food, especially healthy food," says Alicia Bay, Salem Harvest President. "Salem Harvest connects hard working volunteers with generous property owners and the results are amazing; nutritious produce is delivered to the MPFS network to be distributed to hungry families."

If you want to help Salem Harvest in their efforts to support Marion-Polk Food Share provide healthy, fresh produce for families in need, see our [Volunteer](#) page, or consider making an end-of-year [donation](#) to Salem Harvest.

#### **Local Hunger by the Numbers**

- 8.2 million – the pounds of food distributed by Marion-Polk Food Share to its partners in 2011.
- 88,742 – the number of emergency food boxes distributed in Marion and Polk Counties in 2011.
- 39,000 – the number of children in Marion and Polk counties who are eligible for free and reduced-price lunches at school.

## In the news...

[Statesman Journal](#) writer, Saerom Yoo wrote a fantastic [article](#) about Dick Yates and his incredible value to Salem Harvest.

## New Waiting List...

An exciting new feature has recently been added to the [Harvests](#) page. Now, when large farm harvests fill up quickly, there is an option to sign-up for the waiting list. This means no more watching the Harvests page on a daily basis. You can register, and will automatically be notified when a spot is open. "I love having the wait list now," says Melody Parr, Farm Harvest Director. "Now there is a better chance for volunteers since they don't have to be watching the website for a cancellation."

In order for the waiting list to work most efficiently, it's important for those registered volunteers to cancel their spot if they cannot attend a harvest. Cancellations can occur right up until the last minute. Also, if you're on the waiting list and plans change, be sure to cancel your spot so the opening goes to the next in line on the waiting list.



*Martin and Luana Parker are two vital volunteers for Salem Harvest.*

## Meet some volunteers

Martin and Luana Parker are regulars at harvests. Luana has attended 24 this past season, and Martin has 19 under his belt. They were particularly helpful during the onion and pear harvests to help transport heavy produce to the waiting truck by way of their quad.

"Having a quad picking up food and delivering it to the donation area made our harvests so much more efficient," said Melody Parr, Farm Harvest Director. "One of the best benefits is that pickers were willing to fill more containers because they didn't have to be strong enough to carry them out!"

We are so lucky to have Martin and Luana working with Salem Harvest this year. Martin jumps in and drives the quad around loading and unloading boxes without complaint. Luana is happy to direct the harvest and recruits her entire family to fill-in where needed. Thank you Luana and Martin!

## *Salem Harvest End of Season Stats*

Pounds of produce harvested: **167,381**

Volunteer pickers: **1,702**

Total number of harvests in 2012: **107**

## *2012 MVPs (Most Valuable Pickers)*

Tami Fisher  
Rachael Gleed  
Nicole Harbaugh  
Hazel Mitchell  
Linda Pantalone  
Mike Pantalone  
Luana Parker  
Martin Parker  
Oksana Partikevich  
Lisa Richardson  
Angela Rountree  
Rachele Stephenson

These volunteers are eager to step-up and direct harvests. We appreciate all they have done for Salem Harvest.

Thank you!

## Special Thanks...

• Volunteers Sharon and Chuck Unser nominated Salem Harvest for the [Volunteerism Always Pays](#) program through the [Walmart Foundation](#). The Walmart Foundation awards grants to eligible organizations where associates volunteer. Thanks to these volunteers, Salem Harvest will receive \$1,000.

• [Annie Smith Photography](#) donated a portion of her sitting fees to Salem Harvest. We appreciate her generosity and support in 2012.

## 2012 SEASON SPONSORS

Thank you to all of our sponsors. Click on the logos to visit their websites.



## CONSIDER MAKING AN GIFT TO SALEM HARVEST

You can [make a gift](#) to Salem Harvest, or make a donation in a friend's name. Your donation helps pay for harvest equipment, signage, software fees, liability insurance and more. We have no paid staff or office fees so all donations go directly toward our core mission – connecting people to fresh produce that would otherwise go to waste. Contact [Alicia Bay](#) for more information.



Salem Harvest is an all-volunteer organization established in 2010. Our mission is to help hungry families gain self-sufficiency, build community, and celebrate sustainable lifestyles.

Salem Harvest connects farmers and backyard growers with volunteers who harvest fruits and vegetables that would otherwise go to waste. More than half of each harvest is donated to the Marion-Polk Food Share or its affiliated food agencies.

Since 2010, Salem Harvest has harvested over 312,000 pounds of fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables were harvested at more than 215 harvests.



### Board of Directors

**Alicia Bay**  
President

**Dick Yates**  
Vice President

**Roz Shirack**  
Secretary

**Susan Chavez**  
Treasurer

**Katherine Daniels**  
Backyard Harvest Director

**Melody Parr**  
Farm Harvest Director

**Elise Burks**  
Food Resource Developer