Another Amazing Year!

Truly Amazing! When we pull together all the relatively small acts of service each of us did, they accumulate into a HUGE difference for our community. Thank you to everyone who made it possible; board members, harvest leaders, harvest assistants, pickers, community groups, local businesses, farmers, homeowners and food distribution centers. Thank you so much for the role each of you played.

As always at the beginning of the season, the board of directors put together a plan and ambitions for the season. This year’s goals were:

- Fund and hire an Executive Director
- Increase farmer participation
- Develop and hold an event fundraiser
- Increase harvest opportunities for volunteers

Through the winter and spring, we were able to raise enough support and funds for my hiring on July 1. I left my 14 year career with Locke Engineers as a structural engineering technician. It wasn’t that I didn’t like or wasn’t good at my job, it just wasn’t my passion. Ending hunger by actually eating what is already grown is my passion and I believe, the only way to a hunger-free country. With all my time now dedicated to leading Salem Harvest, a stronger connection with farmers, volunteers, community groups, Marion-Polk Food Share and Oregon Food Bank has been formed.

I got to know so many great farmers this year! So willing to help whenever they could with extra equipment, more time to harvest or reaching out to other farms that may have produce going to waste. We had 14 new farms join us this year and most heard about our work through a neighbor. On more than one occasion, I was taken from a site visit at one farm and directly introduced to their neighbor, bringing about a harvest. Our farmers appreciate and are dedicated to us.

What a grand time I had in September when we held our first ever event fundraiser, An Italian Garden Party. There were opera singers serenading us from the balcony, the garden was full of shade and beauty and the food and wine was most delicious. Thank you to all who supported us by attending or by helping put it together.

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The connections, dedicated time and increased farm participation I believe is directly correlated to the 1,000+ increase in available harvest roster slots, and the increase in total farm harvests to 133 this year. This means there is more food going directly from Farm to Family.

As the next season approaches, know that there are even more crops we can harvest, more farms to involve in our mission and more families needing healthy food; I believe we have just scratched the surface. The Salem Harvest Board of Directors have much to plan for before next season and you can help by filling out a short survey found here.

Lastly, please support Salem Harvest financially for the same reasons you support us with your time. Every dollar donated will help feed hungry families and keep food from going to waste. No amount is too small. As with the way we make a HUGE collective difference in our community by many people donating a small amount of time, it is this same way we can make a HUGE financial difference for Salem Harvest. A PayPal donate button can be found on our Home Page or a check can be mailed to Salem Harvest at P.O. Box 483, Salem, Oregon 97308.

Thank you all,
Elise Bauman – Executive Director

NEW 2015 GROWERS
- Hewitt - Tomatoes, Peppers, Melons
- Eder - Cauliflower
- Thomas - Cherries
- Dettwyler - Blueberries
- Haener - Broccoli
- Iverson - Grapes
- Drescher - Broccoli
- Schlecter - Squash, Corn
- Barnett - Squash
- Wenkel - Plums
- Geier - Grapes
- Ditchen - Cauliflower
- Lyons - Cucumbers
- Lowery - Pears
OUR MISSION

To feed the hungry by harvesting food that would go to waste.

Salem Harvest connects farmers and backyard growers with volunteers who harvest produce that would be wasted. More than half of each harvest is donated to Marion-Polk Food Share or its affiliated food pantries. Since 2010, Salem Harvest has harvested and donated over 850,000 pounds of fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables from more than 660 harvests.