Amazing Harvest Season

I thought the spring was never going to end and once it did, wow, what a full year. As always, it was inspirational to see so many acts of service provided by hundreds of people, the accumulation of which made a big difference for our community. Thank you to everyone who made it possible -- board members, committee members, harvest leaders, harvest assistants, pickers, community groups, local businesses, financial supporters, farmers, homeowners and food distribution centers. Thank you for the role each of you played this harvest season.

Harvest Leaders were outstanding this year. Cooperation, encouragement, structure and fun were at the forefront of every event. At our annual Season Kickoff held in April, twenty-four folks volunteered to lead harvests throughout the season. These volunteers dedicated many hours of training, planning and leading. Our leaders worked together as a team, relying on each other and making it fun for everyone, as you can see from the Benedictine Sisters harvest photo on the next page. And not only do the leaders get together at harvests but for special events like jam parties, small harvests and tamale parties.

Statistics for Harvest Season 2017 were right on par thanks to our amazing leaders. We had 702 distinct volunteers join us in the fields, filling 3,022 roster slots. A total of 174 harvests took place where a total of 364,123 pounds of fresh produce was gathered. We directly delivered to MPFS, YCAP and Oregon Food Bank and thanks to our very dedicated Silverton Harvest Leaders, food was directly donated to 5 area food pantries in the area as well.

Salem Harvest Events peppered the year. There was the Gowers Night in the spring where growers were invited to gather and talk food rescue. In May, we held the Bands and Brews to End Hunger fundraiser. Lifesource Natural Foods invited us to attend their annual Earth Day festivities where we not only spread the word about Salem Harvest but we were the day’s 5% donation benefactor. Last but not least, we held our 3rd annual Garden Party on the second Sunday in September, where attendees ate delicious food, drank wine from local wineries, and listened to live choral music. All of these events supported our mission to feeding hungry families by harvesting food that would go to waste.

The Salem Harvest Community Cookbook was published this year. Recipes from local growers, chefs, volunteers and community members were gathered. This collection of 200 recipes was organized in a manner that follows the Willamette Valley harvest season with chapters for strawberries, squash or apples rather than breads, main dishes and desserts. Many cookbooks were
Thank you to all our growers this season. Everything we do starts with a grower.

- AgriCare
- Barnett Farms
- Beilke Family Farms
- Benedictine Sisters
- Bennett & Bennett Bros Farm
- Brateng
- Delgado
- Dinsdale
- Duplessis
- Five Oak Farms
- Ford
- Hamstreet
- Hewitt Farms
- Iverson
- Janzen Farms
- Jensen Family Farm
- Johnson
- Kaufman
- Klopfenstein
- Kraemer Farms
- Lowery
- MC Farms
- Maginnis
- McGill
- Meyer
- Minto Island Growers
- Murphy
- Pearmine Farms
- Redford/ Wetle Farms
- Roth Families
- Rogue Farms
- Scenic Valley Farms
- Schlechter Farms
- Stoutenburg
- Truitt
- Vaughn Cherries
- Webber
- Wenkle

preordered, more were sold at harvests and bazaars and we have about 40 left for $12 each. To order your copy, email cookbook@salemharvest.org with your request — or — pick one up at Willamette Valley Kitchen Co., Capitol Coffee or Century House Bed & Breakfast.

As the next season approaches, know that there are even more crops we can harvest, more farms to get involved and more families needing healthy food. It’s hard to imagine, but Oregon is ranked as one of the hungriest states in the nation, even though we grow such an abundance of food. All the while, tons upon tons of perfect produce is being wasted for one reason or another. Salem Harvest will be here come June, planning harvests, taking on ending hunger by ending food waste.

How can you help the work continue during this time of year? By supporting Salem Harvest financially. Every dollar donated will keep food from going to waste, will give a family an opportunity to harvest food for themselves and will provide healthy food options for hungry kids in our community. Just as lots of people donating a little time makes harvesting happen, so too will lots of small amounts of cash being donated, keep Salem Harvest operating in the coming year. Please click the PayPal “donate” button on our Home Page or send a check to Salem Harvest at P.O. Box 483, Salem, Oregon 97308.

Thank you all for the many ways you contribute to our community,

Elise Bauman
- Executive Director
OUR MISSION

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

Salem Harvest connects farmers and backyard growers with volunteers who harvest fruits and vegetables that would otherwise go to waste. All food harvested feeds children or elderly, unemployed, low-income or homeless people, the majority being distributed through Marion-Polk Food Share and its affiliated food agencies. Salem Harvest rescues about 300,000 pounds of fresh, locally-grown fruits and vegetables annually.