

# Hunger and Food Waste



*After the Harvest*  
Healthy Food for Hungry People

# Our Mission

Prevent hunger by rescuing fresh produce that would otherwise go to waste and distributing it to organizations that feed hungry people. ATH collects fresh produce two ways:

- By gleaning excess food from local and regional farms, farmers' markets, and orchards
- By securing truckloads of donated fruits and vegetables from large commercial producers, brokers and truckers.



# Why Food is Wasted

Food is often wasted for reasons that have nothing to do with nutritional value or food safety. Market standards regarding the length, size, shape and color of fruits and vegetables drive massive amounts of waste. Surface imperfections that don't affect taste routinely result in wasted produce. Farm practices, like reserving only the top ear on a corn stalk for sale, also result in large-volume waste.



# Wasted: How America is Losing Up to 40% of its Food from Farm to Fork to Landfill

- NRDC Issue Paper of August 2012 claims getting food from the farm to our fork eats up 10 percent of the total U.S. energy budget, uses 50 percent of U.S. land, and swallows 80 percent of all freshwater consumed in the United States. Yet, 40 percent of food in the United States today goes uneaten. This not only means that Americans are throwing out the equivalent of \$165 billion each year, but also that the uneaten food ends up rotting in landfills as the single largest component of U.S. municipal solid waste where it accounts for a large portion of U.S. methane emissions.





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# Waste in the Face of Hunger

- Meanwhile, one in seven people in our region is at risk of hunger.
- 25% of households seeking emergency food assistance are children under age 18, including 8% who are age 5 and younger.
- 20% are seniors age 60 or older.
- 40% of these households have at least one adult who has worked during the past 12 months.

# Other Regional Statistics

- 44 percent of clients have attained a high school degree or general equivalency diploma (GED).
- 8 percent have a four-year college degree or higher.
- In 27 percent of households, at least one member has served in the military. 7 percent of households include at least one member currently serving.
- 54 percent of households have had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage.
- 47 percent of households receive benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or food stamps)
- 86 percent of those report that SNAP/food stamp benefits are exhausted by the third week of the month.

# The Opportunity:

As you can see, the opportunity is huge. After the Harvest works with producers and distributors to rescue some of this bounty before it becomes waste. The 2012 NRDC report said that if only 15 % of the wasted food is rescued, it would provide more than enough food for all of America's food-insecure families.

# You Can Help

- Glean with After the Harvest. With our late growing year, we're still gleaning tomatoes, peppers, kale, apples.
- Get your work group, church, rotary club, boy scouts and girl scouts involved.
- Lend your financial support. We spend about \$5,000 in packaging and freight costs to bring a truckload of produce to Harvesters.

Any Questions?



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