



**Harvest C.R.O.P.s**, a program sponsored by St John Youth Group

**Community Residential Outpour of Produce**

8086 Broadway, Lemon Grove, CA. 91945 (619) 461-2681 [www.harvestcrops.org](http://www.harvestcrops.org)

*"Pick to be brought. Don't drop and rot."*

January 4, 2010

### **Harvest CROPs Report: January - December 2009**

Since January 2009, Harvest CROPs, sponsored by St. John of the Cross Youth Group, has visited 25 homes, picked 76 trees, collected 204 five-gallon buckets of fresh residential fruit, and traveled 644 miles. The buckets of fruit were given to 9 food shelters within the county of San Diego, mostly St Vincent de Paul Village Center.

Residents have allowed Harvest CROPs to "picketed to be brought," rather than "dropped and rot." Each bucket weights approximately 20 lbs, for a total excess weight of 4000 pounds. Our mission and prayers is for Harvest C.R.O.P.s to continue to grow each year, encouraging residents to call and donate their excess residential fruit.

Originally, Harvest CROPs was limited to the city and immediate surroundings of the city of Lemon Grove. Because of the San Diego Union Tribune *Our Region* September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 article, Harvest CROPs expanded from the east county to the county of San Diego.

Cash and property donations were received: six harvest poles by individuals and business; \$100 in gas gift cards; \$140 in cash by two individuals; \$25 gift certificates from 99 cents store; 40 five-gallon buckets from Yum-Yum Donuts; and occasional sodas and cookies from residents who offered the volunteers when they harvested.

Only because of the volunteers of St John of the Cross Youth Group under the leadership of Steve Brown, Harvest CROPs has been able to be successful for the County of San Diego, providing residential fruit to low-income families and seniors. Residents were very happy knowing their fruit was to be donated to food shelters—cleaning their trees, a win-win service.

Harvest C.R.O.P.s is very grateful to St. John of the Cross Youth Group for their sponsorship and support, making it possible for the County of San Diego to benefit from residential fruit.

A special thank you to Karen Dey who is the "link" between the public and Harvest C.R.O.P.s, providing emails from telephone messages or calls.

The following youth groups are now supporting Harvest CROPs with volunteer work:

- Grace Church of Spring Valley Youth Group under the leadership of Victor Ruiz
- Holy Spirit Church of San Diego Youth Group under the leadership of Virgil Jones

Enclosed is an annual report of Harvest's CROPs detailed activity.

Sincerely,

Sergio D. Padilla  
Volunteer and Founder