



# Harvest CROPs 2010 report

December 2010

Volume 1, Number 1

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Tile Man  
Yum-Yum Donuts  
Marina Graphics  
Lowe's  
Home Depot  
Speedway Repairs  
99 Cents Store  
Family and Friends

[www.harvestcrop.org](http://www.harvestcrop.org)

[info@harvestcrops.org](mailto:info@harvestcrops.org)

Sergio D. Padilla

Founder and Volunteer

## Donations

Please make checks  
available to

**St John of the  
Cross Youth Group**

For the benefit of  
Harvest CROPs

St John of the Cross  
8086 Broadway  
Lemon Grove CA 91945  
619 461-2681

In the processes  
of becoming  
a registered California  
non profit organization

## 2010 – A Bountiful Year

2010 was a good year! We doubled from last year's harvest, yet visited one house extra. For the first time, we harvested avocados the size of grapefruit and were so delicious! One La Mesa home with 6 trees netted 145 five-gallon buckets of oranges, grapefruit and tangerines from three consecutive Saturday visits—our current record. Most residents who called were from last year's harvest, where two homes were harvested twice this year. Some called when their fruit ripened having read the San Diego Union-Tribune. Residents who gave us permission are calling friends, sharing their experiences, and encouraging others to call.

## The Words Out

We had the opportunity to share our story, starting with Channel 10 News which aired all day. Harvest CROPs is being awarded when a newspaper journalist and a city representative ask to publish our phone number with a story. The Lemon Grove Patch an on-line newspaper wrote a very nice article. The best news was an email from my cousin Gloria: She has volunteered to help Harvest CROPs as a recognized non-profit entity, with her extensive experience of helping others. Simply listening to my cousin was an education. We are in transition of developing Harvest CROPs into a house-whole name. Harvest CROPs is definitely growing—and so is the need for financial support to sustain its operation.



## Our Volunteers

I am deeply indebted to the many volunteers who have stepped forward, placing an idea into action. As an individual, I cannot even imagine if it were not for St. John Youth Group. Many thanks to Steve Browne, youth leader director, because without them, Harvest CROPs would simply remain an idea on paper.



Extending my deepest gratitude to the leadership of Harvest CROPs, there are two particular families, the Aranda and the Avalos, who have been very supportive. There were times we had to divide the groups to meet the harvest schedule. Most recently, recovering from a spinal injury, I simply make a phone call to Lori or Jesus who are willing to lead the harvest. My family, especially my wife Jaqueline, is irreplaceable for their support during my recovering. Leadership is always encouraged, especially families who volunteer.

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## Our equipment

Completing a second year, the donations of equipment is beginning to materialize. Ten harvest poles and two rakes were donated by Home Depot, Lowes and friends. \$175 gas-money were received also, many thanks to Joe of Tile Man and my Uncle Oscar. Lemon Grove Yum-Yum Donuts on Broadway supplies all of our five-gallon buckets. Very thankful to the volunteers who donated the use of their pickups, most



refusing to accept gas money. A very nice 3 x 5 vinyl poster banner with our logo was donated by Jason of Marina Graphics & Embroidery of San Diego. Enrique of Speedway Auto Body Repairs fixed our stuck passenger side window at no charge.

With the wear-and-tear of our equipment, gloves and car repairs for example, eventually Harvest CROPs is praying for a business or corporation to adopt our non-profit organization as a tax-deductable gift for all our needs. In return, “a Quadruple-Win Service,” where everyone benefits: the volunteers for their experiences; the residents with a cleaned yard; low-income families and seniors who receive the fresh organic fruit; and the businesses with a tax-deduction for donations.

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## Two Main Needs

There are two particular immediate needs for Harvest CROPs, so please contact me if there is an opportunity of a donation. The first is a cargo trailer (known as a “motorcycle trailer”) to haul the buckets. Anything less than 40 buckets, I am dependent on my personal minivans. Anything larger, I need to ask others for the use of their pickups. A trailer (with a hitch) will greatly enhance my independences and self-reliance.



The other great need is simply gasoline money. At 3 dollars a gallon I was able to pay out of pocket at times, especially local harvests. Currently on disability pay, this luxury is no longer available. Gas cards (ARCO, the least expensive gas) is a big tremendous help.

**We have spent close to \$500 on gasoline for approximately \$8,000 worth (at .50 cents a pound) of residential fruit that would otherwise “drop and rot” if no one “picketed to be brought.” For \$10, we provide \$153 of fruit on the tables.**



## Next Year

2011 looks to be a better year. We anticipate a bountiful harvest because of the recent summer and winter rains—soaked and saturated. For January, I now have three confirmed harvest appointments! I strongly feel Harvest CROPs will triple in size as we continue to grow. I rather have growing pains than no pain at all, as I heal ironically from a major surgery, typing with a laptop on my stomach, in bed.

Thank you so much for your support, looking forward to a new “fruitful” and prosperous year! Folks, the word is getting out: “Pick to be brought. Don’t drop and rot.”

## The Numbers

2009	2010	2009 vs 2010	Current Total	
25	26	2%	51	Houses visited
76	145	31%	221	Trees picked
644	1,837	48%	2,481	Miles Traveled Total
204	586	48%	790	Current Grand Total of five-gallon buckets
4080	11,720	48%	15,800	<b>Pounds</b> total average (20 lbs average per bucket)
\$2,040	\$5,860	48%	\$7,900	<b>Market Value</b> Average at 50 cents per poi
\$128.	\$367.	48%	\$496.20	<b>Gasoline</b> Expense Total
<b>Per Visit Average</b>				
\$81.	\$225.	94%	\$153	Per Visit Market Value Average picked
\$5.15	\$14.13	93%	\$9.64	Per Visit Gasoline Expense
26	71	93%	48	Per Visit Average Distant Traveled
5	8	39%	7	Per Visit Volunteers Average
<b>Breakdown of five-gallon buckets filled and donated:</b>				
104	369	56%	473	Oranges
37	122	53%	159	Grapefruit
26	50	32%	76	Tangerines
30	25	-9%	55	Lemons
0	14	100%	14	Avocados
7	6	-8%	13	Others (pears, limes, etc)



**Volunteer  
Services**