



Harvest CROPS

2013 Annual Report

Sergio D. Padilla, founder

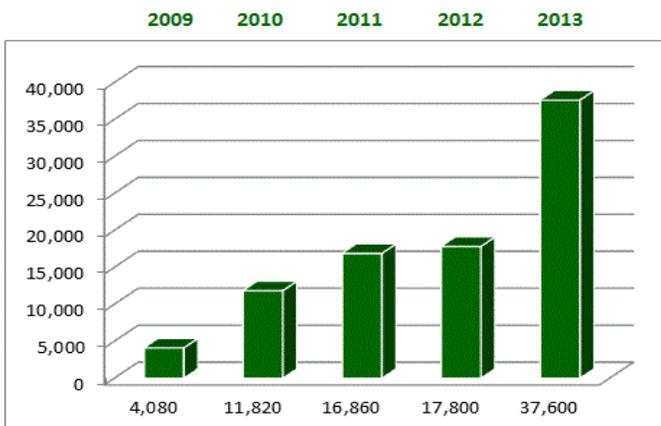


Harvest CROPS welcomed 2013, a prosperous year. Now into our sixth year, the 100,000 pounds benchmark appears to be months away. Since 2009 we average 20,000 pounds a year, collecting fresh residential fruit that would otherwise “drop and rot.” With the help of many wonderful volunteers, we have been able to distribute to various food distribution centers. Each year Harvest CROPS continues to experience prosperous growth providing limited-income families and seniors with fresh residential fruit. With growth, Harvest CROPS welcomes much needed support, networking, policy changes, and business contributions.



For 2013, we exceeded and doubled our expectations! Volunteers picked and delivered 37,600 pounds of fruit, compared to last year’s 17,800. The monthly average is 3,100 pounds. A residential

harvest now averages 724 pounds with the exception of North County, around 1,600 pounds. Neighbors become curious when they notice the volunteers picking. Before leaving, the neighbors are given a confirmed appointment for a return visit. At Escondido for example we harvested three adjacent houses, one weekend after another. When routinely asked over the phone “How did you heard about Harvest CROPS?,” the majority are responding with “internet” or “friend.” Very happy to hear our service is free—plus a tax deductible receipt,



residents are asking for appointments. Each year, we receive new calls added with our seasonal loyal calls. When requesting an appointment, over seventy percent are retired senior citizens.



We are very fortunate to receive wonderful volunteers who make our non-profit organization a continuous success. Groups are telling other groups, excited to discover us. Most are school and community non-profit clubs. Frequently reminded “Don’t forget us,” all promise to volunteer the next season. As our volunteer groups increases, so does our individual volunteers, registering on-line to be placed on our email notices. We are growing as the public become aware of our volunteer needs. Groups and individuals encourage their families to participate. A wonderful combination of families, groups, and individuals, their volunteer hard work is expressed in a fun, and very contagious activity.

One particular family-group is our newly created Rancho Penesquitos Branch. Dr. Truong, coordinator, first volunteered with Harvard Alumni Club of San Diego. She continues to encourage her patients, families and friends, who are always enthusiastic and energetic. Harvest CROPS is highly appreciative and grateful to Dr. Truong, her family and volunteers for their continuous commitment and service. They are a wonderful and inspirational team. Thank you Dr. Truong!

Another special volunteer is Lori Avalos of Spring Valley. An English teacher, she continues to save the mornings when situations become very challenging. When possible – which is most of the time -- she volunteers leading and



driving her pickup. Otherwise we would have had to cancel several scheduled residential harvests. No leadership and unable to transport filled buckets would be the culprits. The harvest distance alone, Escondido, Rancho Santa Fe and Vista, where we average close to 2,000 pounds are saved by Lori. Her leadership and willingness from the heart to help volunteer with her pickup is priceless. Thank you Lori!

A recent volunteer who heard about us through Meals4Hunger is Geoff of Jamul. At Rancho Santa Fe with about 2,400 pounds of oranges, Geoff witnessed our overloaded trailer. The tires appeared flat. He instructed and helped unload and transfer about 30% into his Mitsubishi SUV, a noticeable great relief. Once in Lemon Grove, the oranges were reloaded, then said our goodbyes. We sincerely thanked him. On his next visit, again to Rancho Santa Fe, Geoff showed us his new addition: a recently attached hitch. When asked, Geoff offers his volunteer services hauling our trailer and leadership assistance. A prayer's answer to our growing challenges, Geoff's services is greatly appreciated. Much needed support, we're very thankful for his generous volunteer commitment. Thank you Geoff!



Officially Harvest CROPS is not a registered non-profit organization. Therefore, Harvest CROPS depends on Meals4Hunger's registered 501(3)(c) for its tax-deduction authority. From humble beginnings, we have outgrown the tax ID umbrella of St. John of the Cross Youth Group. As founder, the decision to consolidate into Meals4Hunger was in the best interest for survival. I currently continue to use my personal minivan. Many times, I had paid for gas out of pocket. Now I am grateful to Tisha Tyler, Executive Director, for taking on the expenses and supplies. Their support allows us to continue. The success of Harvest CROPS can no longer be sustained by an individual who "nickel and dimes" for funds. The need to transition Harvest CROPS onto the professionals was overdue.

Effective the first of February, Meals4Hunger will assume management and coordination of Harvest CROPS. Tisha will receive the daily operational responsibilities. Although with limited capacity, I do plan to continue support as an advisor. Surrendering my "baby" is an act of faith in confidence. Permitting Harvest CROPS to continue growing and flourishing, Meals4Hunger is making this possible. Thank you Tisha Tyler and Board Members!

For the past several years, we are very indebted to Enrique Grafias, owner of Speedway. Enrique continuously allows the use of his trailer at our convenience which is practically every other weekend. The trailer has hauled thousands of pounds, traveling to and from various cities. Honestly we would not have been able to be productive without his trailer. Thank you Enrique!



Another wonderful donation is our logo-embroidered forest green T-shirts, a donation from Jason Fitzpatrick of Sea Monster Marine Graphics and Embroidery. The shirts look professional identifying our volunteers in public. We were able to fundraise selling several T-shirts. We are very fortunate to have this offer available when more T-shirts are to be ordered. Thank you Jason!

Our five-gallon buckets, the primary measure unit, now are donated primarily through Janet Landcaster, proprietor of Earth Living Clay of San Diego. Her buckets are of industrial grade, highly durable with metal handles that do not snap off. Janet has been very generous to donate her buckets that easily sell for five dollars each. The nice part is its consistency when stacking: They do not become stuck which is a stressful hassle to separate. Thank you Janet!



I like to extend a cheerful warm embrace to Besma Coda and staff of Chaldean Middle Eastern Social Services (C-MSS). Their agency hosted a volunteer-recognition lunch, appreciation certificates and gifts, having been one of many attendees. Personally I feel very fortunate and blessed, enriched by experiencing the beautiful Chaldean culture discovered in East County. Thank you Besma!

Lately if you haven't noticed our [website](#), please browse at your leisure. The site has been revamped along with major changes. You will immediately notice the left column, new space for sponsors. Dependent on the public's support, we encourage local contributions. An identity from our immediate communities is desired. Please encourage family and friends to promote business sponsored donations, all tax-deductible. Also on the back of our Thank You receipts, given to all residents (also their tax deduction) we display and emphasis our sponsor-ads. As we grow, so does our exposure.

Ultimately we are seeking businesses to adopt Harvest CROPS as tax shelters. At the same time, we are proud to be sponsored by our local businesses, providing a free community service where everyone wins. Please ask for details on how to contribution today.

Harvest CROPS is a win/win/win/win program for volunteers, residents, food shelters and businesses. Volunteers, mostly youth groups, contribute with a life-time experience enhancing personal growth. Residents, mostly seniors, are very thankful to see their trees and



yards cleaned plus a received tax-deduction receipt. Rather than “drop and rot,” residents are very happy to know their fruit will be given to low-income families and seniors. Food distribution centers, such as

the public school’s Family Support Centers, are overwhelmed when they receive several hundreds of fresh residential fruit—each week. The end result is nutrition, free delicious produce which at times can be expensive. Finally businesses have an opportunity to introduce itself with a promotional sponsor ad. Tax-deductible, our success is an association with the contributions and gifts from local businesses who are promoted seasonally. Residents, volunteers, the county of San Diego, all highly appreciate a business’ support and recognition in charity contributions.

I am personally honored and privileged to have been allowed on each resident’s front or backyard property. By permission and appointment, I have been fortunate to receive the trust and loyalty of all residential homeowners. The support continues to be outstanding with the many opportunities in picking and hauling away unwanted oranges, tangerines, lemons, grapefruit, grapes, avocados and more. Personally, I plan to be monitoring the leadership of each residential harvest visit. Our commitment is seasonal to continue the professional, courteous and welcoming service. We consider it an honor for each resident’s permission and appointment scheduled.

Special Thanks for Donations from,

- Zephyr Carlyle
- Temple Emanul El of San Diego
- Ishmael and Erlene Johnson
- Chaldean Middle Eastern Social Services
- Dr. Thuyduong T. Truong, DDS Link
- Janet Landcaster

The Numbers:

Houses Visited:	52
Trees Picked	407
Mileage Traveled	2,040
Pounds Delivered	37,600
Fair Market Value (.75 a lb.)	\$ 28,200.

Each Visit Average:

Pounds Picked	460
Fair Market Value (.75 a lb.)	\$ 342.00
Gas Expenses	\$ 10.18
Miles Traveled	39
Volunteers	14

Up-To-Date Grand Totals:

Houses Visited	182
Trees Picked	1,152
Mileage Traveled	7,600
Pounds Delivered	88,160
Fair Market Value (.75 a lb.)	\$ 66,120.
Gas Expenses	\$ 1,257.

Ratio

Gasoline Expense is 2 Pennies to a Pound.

That’s...

- 2 Pennies for Every 8 Tangerines
- 2 Pennies for Every 6 Lemons
- 2 Pennies for Every 5 Oranges
- 2 Pennies for Every 3 Avocados
- 2 Pennies for Every 2 Grapefruits

Saved 88,160 pounds from “Drop and Rot.”

