



Harvest CROPS

“Give us permission to fulfill our mission”



2014 Report

Much has happened for 2014, good along with the bad. The good is Harvest CROPS had survived another year, now into its eighth year. The bad, well, compared to last year, only half was achieved, down 50 percent. California worst drought had a major impact on the season. Meals4Hunger, a nonprofit organization which sincerely tried to improve Harvest CROPS, returned ownership to the founder. The only increase of 2014 was the average number of volunteers, up 20 percent, as word of mouth continues to spread about our nonprofit community services.

The chart below portrays 2014’s results compared to last year.

	2014	2013	Difference	Percentile	Notes
Visits:	22	52	-30	-58%	
Pounds:	20,700	39,260	-18,560	-47%	
Market Value	\$15,525	--	--	--	.75 a lbs. average
Trees:	336	395	-59	-15%	
Volunteers:	18	15	3	20%	(Average)
Mileage:	1,022	1,955	-933	-48%	
Gasoline:	\$255	\$489	-\$234	-48%	16 MPG @4.00 avg.

\$1.00 provides \$45.00 of fresh residential fruit that would drop and rot.



This season residential fruit totaled about \$15,500, at an average of .75 cents a pound. Compare this value to the cost of gasoline, \$255. This is fruit no one would have picked. A highly feasible and viable program, volunteers make this happen, along with residents who provide permission. Everyone contributes to the success of our mission, providing limited-income families and senior with fresh residential fruit.

Last year’s sudden gas price-drop caught us as a pleasant surprise, continuing into 2015. Welcomed with no complaints, with very limited funds, the gas-crash slope is received as a blessing. The founder’s 1992 F150 pickup takes about 16 miles per gallon, especially when hauling nearly 2,000 pounds of residential fruit. Each residential harvest averages 941 pounds, 46 miles and \$11.61 (4.00 a gallon). The ratio is 1/60 or one dollar to each 60 pounds, about \$45.00.

Special thanks to Geoff Copland of Jamul and Lori Avalos of Spring Valley, both playing a tremendous role in volunteering their time, vehicles and gas cost. A major reason Harvest CROPS survived is because Geoff and Lori filled a gap. They rescued the season and the program. The founder's personal 1992 Plymouth minivan blew its engine, presenting a desperate need of a vehicle to tow a trailer. The minivan was sold for \$350, hauled away for parts. On a brighter side, Lori's husband, Greg presented an opportunity with a significant discount: he sold his 1992 Ford F150 truck with camper shell and tow hitch to the founder. Whereas a minivan is not built to haul, a pickup can together with its equipment cargo. Having more than one vehicle is a great relief when the public offers their transportation services.



In mid-2014, Harvest CROPS was donated, officially absorbed by Meals4Hunger. Meals4Hunger sincerely worked to continue a successful program with limited resources. By request in early December Harvest CROPS was returned to the founder. Highly unfortunate, the intent was the retirement of the founder who suffers from chronic back pain and now permanently retired on medical disability.

Harvest CROPS is currently under the 501(c)(3) of The Chaldean Middle-Eastern Social Services (C-MSS) of El Cajon. Besma Coda, the C-MSS CEO, together with the Chaldean community, provides support and sponsorship which is highly appreciated. Our collaboration sustains the services of Harvest CROPS providing much needed residential fruit to refugees, limited-income families and seniors. With C-MSS' support, providing fresh residential fruit continues to be distributed throughout the county of San Diego.



Harvest CROPS' immediate goal for 2015 is to become independent, becoming its own official 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. The official name will be "Residential Fruit Harvesters" where Harvest CROPS will continue as a program. The primary challenge is funding, its major hurdle. A filing fee of \$400 was raised by four volunteers, many thanks, each provided \$100. Sustaining the nonprofit will need approximately \$5,000, our goal, mostly for liability insurance and gasoline cost yearly. Since 2009, volunteers have picked and transported over 111,000 pounds which is approximately \$83,000 (at .75 cents a pound) – all given free to food distribution centers for people in need. Where donations are gladly accepted, the mission is never to imply or charge residents a fee. The resident's fruit alone is a

donation in itself, grateful for the permission to pick. Most residents are senior citizens who greatly appreciate our labor of love, a win-win service. For this reason we ask for your financial support, where any amount is greatly appreciated. With your support, providing fresh residential fruit will continue to be of service, contributing to the needs of limited-income families and seniors.

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Residential Fruit Harvesters' vision is to establish "Harvest CROPS" as a house-hold name inviting anyone and everyone with healthy residential fruit trees to call seasonally for an appointment. The residents who will provide permission are out there; so are volunteers to pick the fruit. Limited income families and seniors are very happy when we agree on a date, time and location. They are the benefactors of the fresh fruit that would otherwise "drop and rot." Please support Harvest CROPS with your contribution and allow us to continue. "Give us permission to fulfill our mission."

Please help with a donation so we may reach our immediate goal of becoming an official 501(c)(3) nonprofit. This will entitle us to become independent allowing a tax-deduction receipt on all donations. Currently under the umbrella of another nonprofit organization, Residential Fruit Harvesters wishes to achieve its own independence serving the public and continue its free service.



Many thank you's to our supporters who have been very faithful currently serving on the Advisory Board:

Karen Clay, President ◆ Abdon Padilla, Treasurer ◆ Geoff Copland, Member

Together with the support of:

Enrique Grafias of Speedway Auto Repair, use of cargo trailer
Zephyr Carlyle, cash donation
Lori Avalos, cash donation
Geoff Copland, cash donation
Truong Family, their wonderful support coordinating harvests



Harvest CROPS looks forward to 2015, to double its harvest under its own nonprofit registration.

Sergio D. Padilla, Founder and Volunteer