

Harvest CROPS

Community Residents Offering Produce Seasonally
A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization

2015 Report

January 2016

2112 Ensenada Street, Lemon Grove CA 91945 www.harvestcrops.org

619-318-3423 info@harvestcrops.org Chairwoman: Karen Clay



"Give us permission to fulfill our mission"

The year two-thousand fifteen has been a productive year, with much to share. We first incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit incorporation. As of February 21, 2015, we received official notice of acceptance from the Federal Government, in particular, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). We are officially recognized as a "charitable" organization, categorized in "food distribution." Registered with the State of California and recognized by the County of San Diego and the City of Lemon Grove, a 501(c)(3) status allows Harvest CROPS to accept donations as a tax-deduction.



We are very grateful to the [Law Firm of Sam Mazzeo and Emily Wilkinson](#) for providing procedure guidance without charge. Having filed pro se and paying only governmental processing fees, we saved towards sustaining a budget for needed expenses.

With our 501(c)(3) status, we are required to have an Advisory Board. Harvest CROPS is very fortunate to receive Karen Clay who formed our board with talent, experience, skill and vision. Honestly, Harvest CROPS would be lost without her. Harvesting residential fruit is one thing: Administrating an active board is another. Challenges such as "collaborations," "sponsorships" and

"liability considerations" are just a few issues brought to the table. She introduced Gumaro Escarcega who accepted the position of Vice-Chairman, a very talented and experienced member. Abdon Padilla accepted and received the vacancy of Treasurer. Sergio Padilla took the position of Secretary, and Geoff Copland, very dedicated and dependable, became our fifth member. With a very limited budget, all board members are volunteers.

Chairwoman Karen has been enthusiastic with networking Harvest CROPS to the nonprofit and business communities. Accepting an opportunity, we are now in collaboration with [San Diego Food System Alliance](#), (SDFSA) having attended their first San Diego Food Waste Summit. Together, we share the same vision as other nonprofit organizations, determined to bring food waste to its minimum level. We are in negotiation with potential sponsors for collaboration. Vice-Chairman Gumaro Escarcega introduced us to SDG&E, that currently sponsors us. There is power in recognition.

There are several volunteers we like to acknowledge for their continuous dedication and hard work. In the El Cajon Chaldean Community, we thank Saad Hamid and Adil Najjar. They are faithful and well organized with their leadership as residential harvesters. We appreciate their enthusiasm and initiation, asking when the next harvest



will occur. They continue to be a great contribution. Another valuable volunteer is Doctor ThuyDuong Truong together with her family. They service the north county, always available when most needed. Their continuous volunteer work is much noticed on the fields. We are proud of her family, supporting us with their faithful active participation. We cherish them.

When it comes to individuals, two are immediately recognized for their active contributions. Geoff Copland, a board member, has been very effective also as a Field Leader. In volunteering, he travels the distance as a resident of Jamul. Geoff uses his personal SUV to haul and transport the residential fruit to needed locations. Constantly he donates his gas, never requesting to be compensated. With a limited budget, we are very blessed for Geoff's commitment and dedication to our mission. Mara So is another individual volunteer who makes a difference with her constant participation. Mostly quiet and harvesting in the distance, we greatly recognize her constant participation, a frequent volunteer.



Volunteer groups are the flexing muscles of Harvest CROPS. Without them, our organization could not be effective. We are very fortunate to be honored with groups who really fill the demand when most needed. Student organizations such as UCSD, USD, SDSU and other education institutions are to name a few. The Boy Scouts, TVIA's, Circle-K, and families, other organizations, bring much needed volunteer help when



requested. When there is a request for 30 volunteers, to attend 50 plus fruit trees, their confirmation to volunteer in numbers is highly appreciated.

We invite businesses, corporations, large staff members to inquire about our team building opportunities as volunteers. For a monetary donation, tax-deductible, we organize a residential harvest event dedication to the staff enjoyment out in the fields.

Please inquire.

Current Totals:

Pounds harvested: 145,000
¹Worth value: \$108,750.00
 Houses visited: 217
 Mileage: 9,233
 Volunteered: 2,437

2015 End of Year:

Pounds harvested: 31,150
¹Worth value: \$ 23,363.00
 Houses visited: 35
 Mileage: 1,811
 Volunteered: 356

2015 average per visit:

Pounds harvested: 890
¹Worth value: \$ 668.00
 Monthly houses visited: 3
 Mileage: 52
 Volunteered: 10

2015 Donations:

Cash: \$ 2,256.94
 Equipment: \$ 319.52
 Sponsorships: \$ 0.00
 Fund raising: \$ 0.00
 Grants: \$ 0.00
Total: \$ 2,576.46

2015 Expenses:

² Gasoline: \$ 589.44
 Insurance: \$ 679.32
 Administration: \$ 52.19
 Seminars: \$ 22.09
³ Government fees: \$ 480.00
Total: \$ 1,823.04

Founder uses his personal pickup and borrowed trailer

¹ 75 cents a pound

² \$ 3.50 average/ 14 MPG hauling;

Includes administration driving

³ One time payments



*Many thanks for their
equipment donation*

Enrique Garfias

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their cash donation*

Douglas Henderson

Geoff Copland

George Olijnyk

Jaquelina Padilla

Karla Holland-Moritz

Lori Avalos

Sergio Padilla

Zypher Karlyle

C-MSS of El Cajon

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