

# Harvest CROPS

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

2016 Report

January 2017

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*"Give us permission to fulfill our mission"*

Two thousand sixteen was a productive year as Harvest CROPS continues to thrive, doubling from last year's residential harvests and receiving financial donations. For 2016, we harvested a total of 63,000 pounds of fresh residential fruit, compared to last year's 31,000 pounds. More calls, mileage and distributions, we managed to sustain our free community service with your financial support. We received \$4,564.25 this year compared to \$2,256.94 last year in financial donations. The majority of our contributions came from individuals, followed by businesses with one grant from the County of San Diego. We are honored from the continuous support and attention, as we feed limited income families and seniors with fresh residential fruit—that would otherwise spoil when not harvested.



Gradually, Harvest CROPS is becoming independent with our recent purchases of needed equipment. Recently we purchased our very own trailer, pre-owned but reliable. Since 2010, we have been borrowing "our trailer" from Speedway's Auto Body and Paint free of charge. We are very indebted to Enrique Grafias, owner of Speedway for his six years of loyal support lending his trailer. The use of his trailer made a great difference in our ability to transport fruit. Easy access to our new-

used trailer is very convenient and assuring. Another purchase was our necessity of a laptop, again pre-owned and reliable. We have a "virtual office," since we do not hold a physical office other than the founder's home. On expenses, such as liability insurance, gasoline, printer-ink, stationary paper, contact cards, receipts and webpage space, this year we now have a budget. With funds in the bank, we also rely on material donations, having received a professional cloth cover for our outreach table, gloves, and several harvest poles, replacing our old and fatigue materials of seven years.



A routine harvest, the resident invited us to her weekly meetings at San Diego Realtors Association (SDRA) in El Cajon. After presenting Harvest CROPS, they immediately voted to support us with a \$480 donation over the course of six months. More happened. A member of SDRA, the host of The Million Dollar Mortgage Hour, on 1700 AM Real Talk Show, invited us for a live radio interview. The interview was shared with Integrity Home Solutions Group, later presenting a \$1,000 donation check. Within a month, Live Well San Diego presented an invitation on their show. San Diego Realtors Association made this possible, connecting with the radio interviews. We hope to



continue sharing our mission on live radio. We are extremely grateful to Integrity Home Solutions Group for their wonderful generosity.

Recognizing the City of Chula Vista, the department of Environmental Services for their advertisement and outreach support, they published us in their monthly newsletter, distributed in their billing envelopes. On several occasions we were invited to their public outreaches, sharing their booth. Together, we are in collaboration towards California Assembly Bill 1826 which mandates local governments to recycle bio-waste, which causes methane gases at landfill disposal sites. Plastic, paper, twigs and leaves, now residential fruit is to be recycled—if not consumed. Our goal is for residential fruit to be harvested rather than fill the city dumps.

The County of San Diego Supervisors recognized us with a \$500 grant. We were able to purchase our trailer, together with DMV registration and professional tri-folds, rather than our current black and white photocopies. Our first grant, we hope to continue our request annually, grateful of the County's resources and support from the immediate community.



The San Diego Realtors Association of El Cajon, East County donated \$437.50 towards our mission. Once a month for the past six months, we are given the opportunity to share our Mission at their weekly meetings. As a result, their members pooled resources to present their cash donation. In addition, we were invited to return for an additional six months, with the promise of another donation. We are very fortunate to received San Diego Realtors

Association financial support, much needed fund to sustain our mission.

Another donation received was from Totally Promotions, introduced by our new Board Member and Secretary, Sara Holtmeyer. We were in need of a professional cover cloth for our six-foot-portable presentation table. A \$160.00 value, we received a beautiful table cloth cover with our logo for our public outreach invitations. We asked. Totally Promotions gave. A much needed donation, we are grateful for their support.

Recently, we welcomed another new Board Member, Anna Schafer. Her family, two high school boys, routinely volunteer on harvesting weekends. Vital in the fields, we very much welcome Anna who is vital on our Board. Together with her husband, they donated \$500 from The Schafer Foundation Fund. We are very blessed of the Schafer's support and community example supporting our mission.



Finally, we thank SDG&E for their \$500 contribution, promoting community services with our social networking. We are very grateful of their recognition.

Harvest CROPS is growing. Gradually we are being recognized as an alternative to waste and abandoned residential fruit. Residents can look out their window, view their fruit trees and know they now have an option: ignore or make one simple phone call, email or text. Everyone wins when we harvest their residential fruit trees at their convenience.

We are very grateful of the volunteers who supported us with a few hours of their time. Without our volunteers there is no Harvest CROPS. Each makes a difference feeding limited income families and seniors with fresh residential fruit. We are very fortunate most have returned to volunteer picking fruit on several occasions.

Our Board Members are all volunteers, highly appreciated to their commitment and vision. Each have contributed in one fashion or another, very important to our promise of continuous community service. Action speaks louder than words. They have proved their services with their attendance and committed work.

We are in need of three committed volunteers to lead our volunteers on weekends, and possible weekdays. Ranging from two to three hours, the role is very simple and rewarding. Please contact us and ask how you can help feed limited income families and seniors. A few hours of your time make a great difference for people in need. Please do not think about it. Rather plan it.



Harvest CROPS goal for 2017 is to receive a donated pickup or passenger van with hitch. Currently, the founder, Sergio D. Padilla, uses his personal pickup. Because of liability concerns, the vehicle is the responsibility of the founder's. Lending his vehicle is not a long term solution. The donation of our own pickup or passenger van will greatly enhance our ability to service our community.

We wish everyone a happy 2017, inviting everyone who can contribute to our mission: "Harvest residential fruit with volunteers for the benefit of less fortunate people" to please contact us with questions. [Please inquire.](#)

From the Harvest CROPS family

Sergio D. Padilla

Founder and volunteer

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**DONATE**

### Current Totals:

Pounds harvested: 205,280  
<sup>1</sup>Worth value: \$ 153,960  
 Houses visited: 284  
 Mileage: 10,746  
 Volunteered: 3033

### 2016 End of Year:

Pounds harvested: 63,340  
<sup>1</sup>Worth value: \$ 47,505  
 Houses visited: 78  
 Mileage: 2,786  
 Volunteered: 638

### 2016 average per visit:

Pounds harvested: 812  
<sup>1</sup>Worth value: \$ 609  
 Monthly houses visited: 7  
 Mileage: 36  
 Volunteered: 8

### 2016 Donations:

Cash: 4,564.25  
 Equipment: 450.00  
 Sponsorships: 0  
 Fund raising: 0  
 Grants: 500  
**Total: \$ 5,514.25**

### 2016 Expenses:

<sup>2</sup>Transportation: \$ 1,137.99  
 Insurance: \$ 522.74  
 Administration: \$ 139.66  
 Marketing: \$ 542.82  
 Equipment: \$ 765.39  
**Total: \$ 3,108.60**

Founder uses his personal pickup and borrowed trailer

<sup>1</sup> 75 cents a pound

<sup>2</sup> \$ 3.50 average/ 14 MPG hauling;  
 Includes administration driving



*Many thanks for their  
equipment donation*



*Special Thanks for  
their cash donation*

Zephyr Carlyle

Briana Fidelhotz

Olivia Lin

Sutherland Family

Alvarado Family

Johnson Family

Megling Family

Sara Holtmeyer

Mary McDonald

Sandra Vidman

Linda Padilla

Marea Baker

Gregory Brown

Loan Nguyen

*Please*  
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