

2016 NH Gleans Annual Report

NH Gleans is a network of organizations working to increase the availability of fresh and local produce that is distributed to and through NH food pantries, soup kitchens, community suppers and schools. To do this, NH Gleans harvests produce from local farms and farmers markets that would otherwise have not been harvested or sold and distributes the food to organizations that can use it. Established in 2013 with a generous gift through the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation's You Have Our Trust fund, NH Gleans employs gleaning coordinators across the state to work with farms and organizations during the growing season. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, over 308,000 pounds of fresh produce has been gleaned and distributed over the last four years to the people in New Hampshire who most need it.

Gleaning Region	Lead Organization	Pounds Gleaned
Belknap	Belknap County Conservation District	5,937
Cheshire	The Community Kitchen, Inc.	41,042
Hillsborough	Hillsborough County Conservation District	32,024
Merrimack	Merrimack County Conservation District	13,240
North Country	Taproot Farm & Environmental Education Center	1,038
Seacoast	NH Farm to School, Seacoast Eat Local, NOFA NH	7,914



NH Gleans works to increase availability of fresh and local produce that is distributed to and through NH food pantries, soup kitchens, community suppers, and schools.

Highlights

- Merrimack and Belknap gleaning coordinators collaborated with Belknap-Merrimack Community Action Center senior centers (five in Merrimack County, four in Belknap County) to supply freshly gleaned food that was incorporated into hot meals at centers as well as given to patrons to take home.
- Partnership with UNH Cooperative Extension Nutrition Connections allowed gleaned food to reach more families through cooking classes. UNH Cooperative Extension provided MCCC with customized recipes for commonly gleaned items that were distributed at donation sites.
- Continued partnership with Colby-Sawyer enabled students to glean over 1,000 pounds of potatoes at Spring Ledge Farm in New London, NH.

Recipients of NH Gleans Donations

1269 Cafe in Manchester	Seymour Osman Community Center	Loudon Food Pantry
SNHS	Allenstown Boys & Girls Club	Mountain View Senior Center
Greenfield Food Pantry	Andover Food Pantry	Newbury Heights Senior Center
Antrim Food Pantry	Bessie Rowell Community Center	Salvation Army Food Pantry
NSK	BM CAP Elder Services Central Kitchen	Salvation Army McKenna House
NH Foodbank	Boscawen Congregational Church	Silly Goose Day Care
Greenfield Commons	Concord Centerpoint Church	South Sutton Trinity Bible
Peterborough Food Pantry	Concord Christ the King Parish	St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Jaffrey Food Pantry	Concord Area Community Action Program	Suncook Senior Center
Phoenix House	Concord Boys & Girls Club	Tiny Twisters Day Care Center
Grapevine	Concord Head Start	TRIP Senior Center
SHARE	Concord Recreation Center	Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry
River Center	Concord Royal Gardens Summer Lunch Site	UNH Cooperative Extension Nutrition
Francestown families and community supper	Crisis Center of NH	Connections Merrimack County
All Saints Community Supper	Danbury Food Pantry	United Church of Penacook
ISGN and refugee families in Nashua	Epsom Food Pantry	Wilmot Food Pantry
All Saints Food Pantry	First Congregational Church	Community Kitchen, Keene
Summer Lunch program	Friendly Kitchen	Vineyard Ministries food pantry and soup kitchen - Laconia
Seacoast Family Food Pantry	Friends of Forgotten Children	Laconia Senior Center
St. Vincent de Paul	Henniker Food Pantry	Alton Senior Center
Cornucopia	Hopkinton Food Pantry	Tilton Senior Center
New Durham Food Pantry	Horseshoe Pond Place Senior Center	Belmont Senior Center
Somersworth Middle School	Immaculate Conception Church of Penacook	Harvest Box Donation Drop off - Laconia
Somersworth High School	Kearsarge Valley Community Action Program	
Somersworth Food Pantry	Kearsarge Lake Sunapee Community Food Pantry	
Operation Blessing		

- Collaborated with Greater Franklin HEAL Coalition to provide gleaned produce for their harvest boxes.
- Concord Monitor featured an article about NH Gleans and members of their staff joined a glean at Work Song Farm in Hopkinton, NH.
- Organized a glean for United Way's Day of Caring in September where a group of seven volunteers from local businesses gleaned apples at Hackleboro Orchards in Canterbury, NH.
- Organized volunteer event for AmeriCorps Service Day in March where volunteers created posters for gleaning.



Harvest Box at Laconia Community Center.

Stories

The big story for the gleaning program is the new website, NHGleans.org. The new site allows for volunteers to register, farms to input gleaning opportunities, and coordinators to schedule gleanings and input information about gleaning. The website sorts information by region and by state, allowing us to gather better data. The site also generates a tax deduction letter for each farm

that donates, listing all donations from that farm. We plan to train others to use the site as a way to collect additional food donation data to get a better picture of donations around the state. NH Gleans is grateful to Dick Yates for creating the website free of charge and training the gleaning coordinators to use it.

Program Success

	2013	2014	2015	2016
Number of Volunteers:	94	136	169	86
Number of Farms:	58	64	89	128
Number of Recipient Organizations:	36	36	59	74
Total Pounds Gleaned:	28,864	65,094	109,685	101,888

Top Crops

- Summer Squash
- Cucumbers
- Tomatoes
- Apples
- Potatoes
- Winter Squash
- Corn
- Lettuce
- Kale
- Sweet potatoes

Top Donating Farms

- Brookdale Fruit Farm
- Picadilly Farm
- Cheshire Fairgrounds Farm
- New Dawn Farm
- Middle Branch Farm
- Spring Ledge Farm
- Rosaly's Garden

Media Coverage

- ["Nothing to Waste."](#) Abby Kessler. Monadnock Ledger-Transcript.
- ["TCK's Gleaning Program"](#). The Community Kitchen.
- ["With new website and solutions, NH Gleans fights waste and food insecurity"](#). Elodie Reed. Concord Monitor.

2017 Program Goals

- Meet or exceed the pounds of food gleaned in 2016 season
- Increase the number of participating farms & food donation sites
- Increase the amount of collected food donation data
- Provide cooking and nutrition education to food pantries and their clients with the help of UNH Nutrition Connections program
- Work with the NH Food Bank to increase direct farm to food pantry donations
- Train farmers and food pantries to enter data into NH Gleans website



Many times at donation sites my presence was announced with "It's the Vegetable Lady!" from both pantry managers and clients, which always made me smile. It was usually followed by a rush of offers to help me carry in any additional food. People were always excited to hear where the produce came from and marveled at its freshness. Often, it would spark conversation about different recipes and recollections of childhood favorites using that particular food item.

- Alyssa Lemmerman, Merrimack County gleaning coordinator

Housed at the Sustainability Institute at the University of New Hampshire, NH Farm to School is a statewide program working to connect New Hampshire farms and schools. As a nationally recognized leader, UNH draws on the Sustainability Institute to act as convener, cultivator and champion of sustainability on campus, in the state and region, and around the world. Learn more at www.nhfarmtoschool.org and www.sustainableunh.unh.edu