

2018 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. 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 678,816 pounds of fresh produce has been gleaned and distributed over the last six years to the people in New Hampshire who most need it.

| Gleaning Region | Lead Organization | Pounds Gleaned |
|-----------------|--|----------------|
| Belknap | Belknap County Conservation District | 14,329 |
| Cheshire | The Community Kitchen, Inc. | 31,858 |
| Hillsborough | Hillsborough County Conservation District | 71,878 |
| Merrimack | Merrimack County Conservation District | 44,130 |
| Coos | Taproot Farm & Environmental Education Center | 2,822 |
| Seacoast | NH Farm to School, Seacoast Eat Local, NOFA NH | 44,308 |

Highlights

- In Strafford County, NH Gleans worked with the Cooperative Extension Nutrition Connections to set up 'farmers markets' to provide gleaned produce to families. Families learned about health and nutrition, tried samples, and collected produce.



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.

Five sites in the county participated, including public housing, community centers, and schools. This program will continue in 2019.

- Five organizations in NH received funds from the Harvard Pilgrim Foundation to support gleaning and food distribution, including two in the NH Gleans network.
- In November, NH Gleans in Belknap County participated in Food Recovery and Donation: Opportunities and Challenges in the Lakes Region. The event addressed ways to decrease food waste such as gleaning, understanding food donation laws, composting, and feeding food waste to livestock. More events like this are planned.
- Volunteers from the Friends Program, Retired and Senior Volunteers Program, have partnered with NH Gleans in Merrimack County to help glean and then help distribute the food around the county.
- NHTI students helped pick over 1,000 lbs of apples at Hackleboro Orchard.

Recipients of NH Gleans Donations

Community Kitchen, Keene
Pratt Homes, Nashua
Salvation Army, Nashua
AHEPA 35 Manor, Nashua
Southern New Hampshire Rescue
Mission, Nashua
Greenfield Commons
Antrim Food Pantry
Jaffrey Food Pantry
Peterborough Food Pantry
Greenfield Food Pantry
All Saints Community Supper
Nashua Soup Kitchen
NH Food Bank
ISGN
SHARE
Phoenix House
Avenue A Teen Centre
Fracestown families in need
Berlin Food Pantry
Lancaster Catholic Church
Community Cupboard, Lancaster
Tilton Food Pantry
Vineyard Pantry
Senior Centers in Laconia, Belmont,
Tilton & Alton
Cornucopia Food Pantry , Durham
St. Thomas Moore Food Pantry, Durham
Newmarket Food Pantry
Footprints Food Pantry, Kittery, Maine
Gather, Portsmouth
House of Hope, Berwick, Maine
Salvation Army, Portsmouth
Crossroads House, Portsmouth
Our Neighbor's Table, Amesbury
End 68 Hours of Hunger, Exeter
Exeter High School
Rollinsford Benevolent Police
Association
Hampton schools
Kingston schools
Portsmouth schools
Warner Area Community Action
Program, Warner
Immaculate Conception Church,
Penacook
Concord Headstart, Concord
Ascentria Care Alliance, Concord
Belknap-Merrimack Community Action
Program Senior Services, Concord
Concord Boys & Girl Club, Concord
(they re-distributed some to the Boys &
Girls Clubs in Allenstowns & Warner)
Center Point Church, Concord
Christ the King Church Food Pantry,
Concord
Boscawen Food Pantry, Boscawen
Hopkinton Food Pantry, Hopkinton
Henniker Food Pantry, Henniker
Pittsfield Food Pantry, Pittsfield
Pittsfield Senior Center, Pittsfield
Century 21 After School Programs at
Rundlett Middle and Concord High
Schools, Concord
UNH Cooperative Extension Nutrition
Connections Program, Merrimack
County
Wilmot Food Pantry, Wilmot
Bessie Rowell Community Center,
Franklin
Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry,
Franklin
Bradford Food Pantry, Bradford
Chichester Food Pantry, Chichester
Loudon Food Pantry, Loudon
South Sutton Church, Sutton
First Congregational Church, Concord
St. Paul's Church Food Pantry, Concord
Belknap-Merrimack Community Action
Program Food Pantry, Concord
Friends of Forgotten Children,
Penacook
Concord YMCA, Concord
Danbury Food Pantry, Danbury
Friendly Kitchen, Concord
Giving Hands Food Pantry, Hooksett
Hooksett Food Pantry, Hooksett
United Church of Penacook, Penacook
Pittsfield Youth Center, Pittsfield
Friends Program, Concord
Salvation Army, Concord
McKenna House Homeless Shelter,
Concord
Pine Haven School for Boys, Allenstown
Pembroke Community Action Program
New Horizons, Manchester
Ashland Food Pantry, Ashland
Newmarket Community Church Food
Pantry
Newmarket Schools
St Vincent de Paul, Exeter
Exeter Schools
Footprints Food Pantry, Kittery, Maine
Gather, Portsmouth
End 68 Hours of Hunger, Portsmouth
House of Hope, Berwick, Maine
Crossroads House, Portsmouth
Our Neighbor's Table, Amesbury,
Massachusetts
Nourishing the North Shore,
Newburyport, Massachusetts
Epping schools
Oyster River schools
Nottingham Food Pantry
Kingston schools
Our Daily Bread, Dover
Seymour Osman Community Center,
Dover
Homeless Center for Strafford County,
Rochester
Gerry's Food Pantry, Rochester
Rockingham Community Action,
Seabrook
Interfaith Food Pantry, Farmington
Fremont Food Pantry
Revolution Food Pantry, Rochester
Wilkinson Food Pantry, Lee
Groveton Elementary School
Dummer Food Pantry
Colebrook Food Pantry
Brookside Apartments, Berlin
McKee Inn, Lancaster
Ice Pond Apartments, Lancaster
Lancaster Head Start
WIC program, Keene
Jaffrey Food Pantry
Fall Mountain Food Pantry
Joans Pantry, Chesterfield
Franklin Senior Center

Stories

Hillsborough County Gleaners

We donated food to Laura every year for 5 years. At every donation, Laura would give us huge hugs. We got so much gratitude from Laura. She always invited us into her home, and would start preparing the food immediately, coming up with plans on the spot about what she was going to do with the finished product. She called herself a scavenger, always finding ways to use all the food. She would feed her neighbors delicious treats. While she was busy cooking, she'd make us a hot drink, tell stories of her life, and sing her favorite songs. During our 6th gleaning season, Laura passed away. She showed us that delicious food was a great tool for building community and spreading joy and love.



Laura receiving a donation from Hillsborough County Gleaners.

Community Kitchen, Keene

A set of new partnerships developed within the gleaning program through a series of conversations in the winter of 2018. The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program was interested in whether they might be able to share fresh local produce from gleaning with the moms who attend the WIC nutrition clinic. It seemed like a great pairing between WIC's individual counseling and offering them fresh produce to work with as they left the clinic. Nye Hill Farm intended to grow a dedicated plot for The Community Kitchen, and they had a special interest in ensuring that



Antioch students participate in the Community Garden Connections Program.

produce would go to feed hungry children. After a little trial and error, they established a system of preparing four banana boxes of produce for WIC at the end of each week, ensuring that they included the types of fruits and vegetables that were easiest to offer at WIC. On Mondays, an intern from the Cheshire County Conservation District would collect the labeled boxes and deliver them to WIC. This project was received enthusiastically at WIC and will continue in 2019.



Donation from Ledge Top Farm headed to the Salvation Army in Nashua.

Gleaning Program Combats Food Insecurity

[*excerpt from Tom Long's article in Fiddlehead](#)

Kelsey MacDonald assembled 13 volunteers at Heron Pond Farm in South Hampton to collect squash left behind after a recent harvest. . The group gathered 2,200 pounds of

summer squash and zucchini that was shared with several food pantries in the area. "It's exciting to help provide meals for kids, seniors and other people who need help getting food, some who even have to choose between eating and buying medicine," said MacDonald, 24, NOFA-NH's coordinator. "Some of the produce is bruised or an unusual shape, but it's still nutritious," MacDonald said. "Seeing that we are helping our community make choices to use fresh and local produce is very rewarding," said Seneca Adam Bernard, pantry market and mobile programs manager for Gather Food Pantry. "In addition to the gleans saving Gather NH hundreds of dollars, being able to provide fresh, locally grown items has been significant to us and our mission and our shoppers."

"We don't just accept produce from big commercial farms, we even accept produce from people with a backyard garden if they have too much of one thing or another," MacDonald said. "I'm always trying to build up the network. I approach vendors at farmers' markets and introduce myself. I've built up a network of participating farms. There are advantages to them as well; they get a tax deduction at the end of the year and peace of mind in knowing that their produce fed somebody, it didn't just lie on the ground."

Program Successes

| Year | Number of Volunteers | Number of Farms | Number of Recipient Organizations | Total Pounds Gleaned |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------|
| 2013 | 94 | 58 | 36 | 28,864 |
| 2014 | 136 | 64 | 36 | 65,094 |
| 2015 | 169 | 89 | 59 | 109,685 |
| 2016 | 86 | 128 | 74 | 101,888 |
| 2017 | 130 | 120 | 87 | 163,592 |
| 2018 | 251 | 150 | 118 | 209,693 |

Top Crops

- Cucumber: 31,277 lbs
- Summer squash: 28,652 lbs
- Zucchini: 17,654 lbs
- Corn: 16,850 lbs
- Tomatoes: 16,242 lbs
- Winter Squash: 14,285 lbs
- Apples: 14,322 lbs
- Peaches: 13,277 lbs
- Peppers: 5,013 lbs
- Carrots: 4,480 lbs

Top Donating Farms

- Brookdale Fruit Farm, Hollis
- Carter Hill Orchard, Concord
- Emery Farm, Durham
- Green Wagon Farm, Keene
- Hackleboro Orchard, Canterbury
- Heron Pond Farm, South Hampton
- Muster Field Farm, North Sutton
- Pedal Pushers Farm, Laconia
- Pete's Stand, North Walpole
- Picadilly Farm, Winchester
- Scamman Farm, Stratham

2019 Program Goals

- Increase funding for the program through grants & donations to support more time and travel for coordinators
- Expand into Grafton County
- Support research to understand amount and potential of excess farm food in NH
- Develop marketing and communications campaign
- Recruit and train new volunteers

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