

## 2017 NH Glens Annual Report

NH Glens 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 Glens 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 Glens employs gleaning coordinators across the state to work with farms and organizations during the growing season. Thanks to their hard work and dedication, over 469,123 pounds of fresh produce has been gleaned and distributed over the last five years to the people in New Hampshire who most need it.

### Highlights

- Gleaning coordinator in Cheshire County developed an internship program for a Keene State student. This student spent 120 hours helping and learning about gleaning and hunger.



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

Gleaning Region	Lead Organization	Pounds Gleaned
Belknap	Belknap County Conservation District	10,509
Cheshire	The Community Kitchen, Inc.	32,872
Hillsborough	Hillsborough County Conservation District	66,061
Merrimack	Merrimack County Conservation District	35,626
North Country	Taproot Farm & Environmental Education Center	904
Seacoast	NH Farm to School, Seacoast Eat Local, NOFA NH	17,620

- Cheshire gleaning coordinator worked with staff from The Community Kitchen on “Health and Wellness Living Learning Collaborative: Hunger on KSC Campus.” The class included twenty four first-year students, all of whom toured The Community Kitchen and attended the coordinator’s classroom presentation on hunger issues. Eighteen of the students also visited the charitable garden at C & S Wholesale Grocers.
- Merrimack County established relationships with central kitchens who prepare food for seniors and CAP programs and increased their volunteer base by tapping church groups and students.
- The Seacoast saw an increase in donations to schools.
- The North Country coordinator worked with Nutrition Connections to prepare a dish using gleaned produce at the Community Cupboard food pantry in Lancaster. Clients eagerly took the gleaned produce home to prepare this dish.

## Recipients of NH Gleans Donations

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

- Belknap County had their best year, gleaning about 10,000 lbs.
- NH Gleans participated in Farm Level Surplus working group. This group has been convened by Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation at Harvard Law School. Quarterly topical conference calls and webinars are organized around gleaning and food waste.

## Stories

### Melissa Grella, Taproot, North Country

Zeanny Egea from the UNHCE Nutrition Connections held a tasting at the Lancaster Food Pantry using produce that I gleaned. We coordinated ahead of time - I let her know what I would be gleaning and how much, we found some recipes, and it was a success. I also had some leftover kale and kohlrabi from the Root Seller that I dropped off. At first she said, no one



It's really nice to know it's going to hungry people instead of to a compost pile! Thank you for all you do!

- Madison Hardy, Brookdale Fruit Farm

was picking up any of the produce - but then after they tasted what she made and there was nothing left - kale and rhubarb all found a home! I just wanted to share - I hope others are able to coordinate with their extension educators in their area. Zeanny and I are very optimistic about this summer. I'm gleaned more rhubarb today. It's from a backyard gardener who in the past has just picked it and composted it because she didn't have any use for it - THAT boggles my mind! Glad I am able to capture it!!



Richard from the Nashua Soup Kitchen accepting a donation of winter squash.

**Daisy Blaisdell, Twin Rivers Interfaith Food Pantry, Merrimack County**

Please know how much we appreciate NH Gleans providing the Pantry with 88 pounds of apples from Hackleboro Orchard and 24 pounds of squash from Carter Hill Orchard. We wrote out a very simple applesauce recipe and found that many of our neighbors were willing to give the process a try. The generosity of the donation allowed us to distribute enough to folks so they could make some extra applesauce to freeze. Thank you for your part in helping us encourage nutritious food!

NH Gleans is an awesome program, and we are grateful to be a recipient of the efforts of your gleaners and the generosity of your farmers!

**Janet Perusse, Immaculate Conception Church, Merrimack County**

We had a young girl who asked if she could take some of the peaches for her 4-H project. She needed them to make a jam and hoped to enter it in the Hopkinton Fair. I told her to take whatever she needed. After the fair, she came in and showed me the jam she made and the ribbon she won at the Fair. She was so proud of herself. She wouldn't have been able to do it without the peaches she got here.

Also, I can't tell you how many times I was stopped at the food pantry to be thanked for what we were doing. One father at the Concord Headstart ran after me in the parking lot to personally thank me from himself and the other parents. He told me about the salsa he had made from the peppers donated from Worksong Farm.

**Eileen Liponis, NH Food Bank**

At our agency appreciation dinner last week, one of the 8 beneficiaries of the Morgan Stanley grant of a two door commercial refrigerator told me that since she has gotten the refrigerator AND was hooked up with NH Gleans, she has been able to increase the fresh produce distribution to all her families by 3X what she was able to do before and she said it's all beautiful product and her families have been thrilled to have it.



Gleaned strawberries from Work Song Farm and Canterbury Shaker Village in Merrimack County on their way to Salvation Army Food Pantry.



## Harry Weiser, Hackleboro Orchard, Merrimack County

Good things did come out of the hail spanked crop at Hackleboro Orchards over the fall this year. Merrimack County Conservation and Belknap County Conservation gleaned 6478 pounds of apples from the orchard. Thanks go to Stacy, Jess, and their band of merry gleaners from Merrimack County and Russ and his crew from Belknap County who picked all those apples and then distributed them to food pantries, soup kitchens, churches and other needy folks in the area. Nice to see the apples put to such good use and the commitment by these people to make it all come about. Kudos to you!

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of Volunteers:	94	136	169	86	<b>130</b>
Number of Farms:	58	64	89	128	<b>120</b>
Number of Recipient Organizations:	36	36	59	74	<b>87</b>
Total Pounds Gleaned:	28,864	65,094	109,685	101,888	<b>163,592</b>

## Program Success

### Top Crops

- Summer Squash: 29,424 lbs
- Peaches: 19,094 lbs
- Apples: 17,224 lbs
- Cucumbers: 16,761 lbs
- Tomatoes: 13,973 lbs
- Winter Squash: 11,033 lbs
- Corn: 9,352 lbs
- Potatoes: 5,956 lbs
- Pumpkin: 5827 lbs
- Sweet potatoes: 4,308 lbs
- Onions: 3,775 lbs

### Top Donating Farms

- Brookdale Fruit Farm, Hollis
- Carter Hill Orchard, Concord
- Picadilly Farm, Winchester
- Pete's Stand, North Walpole
- Heron Pond Farm, South Hampton
- Hackleboro Orchard, Canterbury
- Beans and Greens Farm, Gilford
- Green Wagon Farm, Keene
- Maple Lane Farm, Lyndeborough
- Riverside Farm, Berwick, ME

## 2018 Program Goals

- Increase funding for the program through grants and 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



Gleaning from Sanborn Hope Farm in Rochester.

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](http://www.nhfarmtoschool.org) and [www.sustainableunh.unh.edu](http://www.sustainableunh.unh.edu)