



glean SLO

*Rescuing nature's bounty for the benefit of our community*

**2014**  
**A year in gleans**



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# Mission and Vision

## Mission:

*Rescuing nature's bounty for the benefit of our community.*

## Vision:

*Through the act of harvesting and sharing food, we connect and nourish our community to build stronger relationships and a deeper appreciation for our food.*



PHOTOS BY CAROLYN EICHER

Top: A group of GleanSLO volunteers pose for a photo after harvesting lettuce in southern San Luis Obispo County on October 19, 2014. Right: GleanSLO Volunteers harvest kale on Oct. 12, 2014. Produce from both harvests would have been wasted, but instead, the harvested greens were distributed to food insecure families via the Food Bank Coalition of San Luis Obispo County.



## What is Gleaning?

Gleaning is the collection of leftover crops both large and small, from farmers' fields after they have been commercially harvested or from fields where it is not economically profitable to harvest. GleanSLO has expanded this definition to include the collection of surplus produce from backyards and gardens of community residents.

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The logo for GleanSLO features the word 'glean' in a lowercase, sans-serif font. To the left of the 'g' is a small red icon of an apple. To the right of the 'n' is a small purple icon of a grape. To the right of 'SLO' is a small green icon of a leaf.

# Overview

## What is our history?

In 2010, a group of inspired community members and individuals from non-profits in our county came together in conversation over a year's time to talk about capturing excess produce that was grown in our county and sharing it locally with those in need. We gathered in cafes, homes, and meeting spaces hosted by Cal Poly's SUSTAIN team while we brainstormed, researched, read, and talked over many cups of tea, coffee and snacks.

Together, we envisioned a community where neighbors shared their produce with each other, where people were not hungry, where there was abundance around and a feeling that we had enough. We looked at our world with connection, not isolation. We shared stories in person, in real time. We longed for opportunities to learn together ways that had been lost — togetherness over leisurely meals, over harvest, of skills that used to be common - the art of canning, tending to the earth, of multi-generations talking and being there for each other. We longed to share with each other stories about our lives. Stories about community. We envisioned connections

forming with people over a backyard citrus tree, a large field or bountiful orchard — many people who wouldn't otherwise have the chance to meet.

It is from this idea of togetherness, of helping each other, caring for our county, our planet, our community, that GleanSLO was born. In recognizing our history and accomplishments, there are many people we are grateful for who gathered around those tables and dedicated endless hours of visioning and brainstorming to make this happen. We won't forget the grassroots way we started and the people who believed this was possible.

*Carolyn Eicher, GleanSLO co-founder*



PHOTO BY CAROLYN EICHER

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# History

## GleanSLO Timeline

### 2010

- A few individuals from SLO Grown Kids started gleaning from local San Luis Obispo backyards in February 2010. The Backyard Harvest (BYH) Founder from Moscow, Idaho, Amy Grey, guided our work along with Paso Robles resident Gail McNichols who had started a local Paso Robles BYH chapter.
- Cal Poly's SUSTAIN team worked with our new SLO Backyard Harvest to co-create the local gleaning initiative for our county, hosting and leading the visioning meetings
- In Fall of 2010, a group of engaged individuals from various organizations met monthly realizing that there was a shared vision and passion for establishing a county-wide gleaning effort.
- Partners included the Food Bank Coalition of SLO County, Cal Poly's STRIDE, Cal Poly's SUSTAIN, Transition Towns, SLO Grown Kids, and One Cool Earth.

### 2011

- In February 2011 we became GleanSLO, with the Food Bank taking a leadership role and facilitating gleans in larger farms, fields and orchards.
- SLO Grown Kids hired designer Marjorie Collins to design the new GleanSLO logo
- United Way awarded GleanSLO \$5,000 for the Innovation Grant. Funds were matched by Food Bank and Caroline Ginsberg was hired as the first GleanSLO employee through the AmeriCorps program from August 2011 through June 2012.
- Food Bank began serving as the fiscal agency with this hiring.

### 2012

- Carolyn Eicher, one of the founders of GleanSLO, became the GleanSLO Program Manager in June 2012 when Caroline Ginsberg moved back to her home state of Maine.
- Jeanine Lacore joined the team as the new AmeriCorps VIP member from August 2012-June 2013, and was hired on full-time by the Food Bank in July 2013 as GleanSLO Program Coordinator.
- The North County Farmers' Market Collection Program was initiated at the Templeton Farmers' Market in June with volunteer teams collecting excess produce weekly on Saturdays.
- Our Farmer's Market Collection Program expanded to San Luis Obispo's Thursday downtown market in August of 2012, partnering with The Salvation Army for collection and distribution.

### 2013

- The community's response to GleanSLO continued to blossom. The first City-wide Fruit Drive is held in San Luis Obispo in the spring.
- GleanSLO yard signs "My Garden Feeds Hungry Families" were developed and sponsored by a local family to thank homeowners donating produce and raise awareness for GleanSLO.
- The first statewide Gleaning Conference was held in San Jose and Jeanine and Carolyn attended.
- In the fall of 2013, the Food Bank received the USDA Community Food Project grant to build infrastructure and capacity of GleanSLO.
- In September 2013, Carolyn Eicher passed the baton to Jen Miller as the GleanSLO Program Manager position transitioned to full-time with the award.
- Chuck Asmus was hired in November as a driver of GleanSLO's grant-funded truck.

### 2014

- The first cohort of GleanSLO Neighborhood Harvest Leaders are trained to lead their own gleans.
- A replicable model for student-led School Fruit Drives is developed and implemented in 7 schools, collecting nearly 2,000 pounds of fruit in just 3 months.
- The Food Bank Nutrition Outreach Program and the UC Cooperative Extension to use gleaned produce in cooking demonstrations at distribution sites to educate Food Bank recipients about nutritional value, recipes, and techniques for canning, freezing and dehydrating.
- More farmers begin working with GleanSLO, increasing the number of farm harvests by nearly 50% from 2013.



# Staff and Leadership

## Staff

Jeanine Lacore	GleanSLO Program Coordinator, Food Bank
Jen Miller	GleanSLO Program Manager, Food Bank
Chuck Asmus	GleanSLO Driver

## Steering Committee



**Chris  
Aho**

*Director of Community Relations, Food Bank*



**Norma  
Cole**

*Transition Towns, Institute for Sustainable Living*



**Bev  
Aho**

*Community Partner from Oak Creek Commons*



**Lynn  
Cullen**

*Atascadero Community Member*



**Kathy  
apRoberts**

*San Luis Obispo Community Member*



**Carolyn  
Eicher**

*GleanSLO Co-Founder*



**Jennifer  
Codron**

*Director, SLO Grown Kids*



**Nell  
Wade**

*San Luis Obispo Community Member*

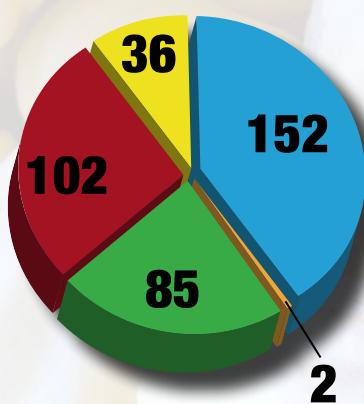


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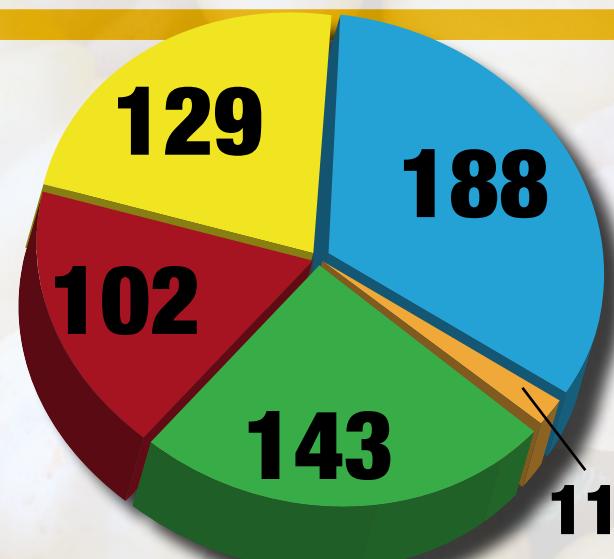
# Outcomes

## Harvests by Venue

- Pick-up
- Farmers' Market
- Commercial Farm
- Fruit Drive
- Private Neighborhood



2013 Total Harvests: **377**



2014 Total Harvests: **573**



**2013**

**2014**

Venues' Total Calculated Weight in Pounds

**75,184**

**40,959**

**1,765**

**3,239**

**79,619**

**93,941**

**30,438**

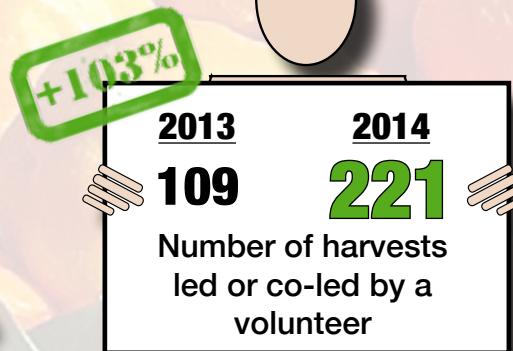
**26,928**

**25,103**

**35,025**

# Outcomes

## A Big Year for Volunteer Efforts!



Total number of newly registered volunteers  
2013: **698**  
2014: **603**  
**Grand Total: 1,301**

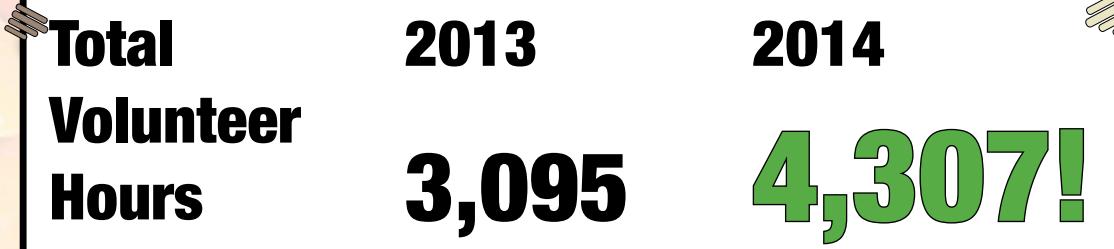


PHOTO BY CAROLYN EICHER

# Outcomes

## 2014 Crop Breakdown

### *crop lbs.*

apples	13,130
assorted	55,236
avocados	10,543
beets	4,471
bell peppers	5,776
blueberries	1,077
carrots	168
*citrus	<b>45,486</b>
corn	406
figs	100
grapes	2,283
green beans	179
kiwifruit	3,819
*leafy greens	<b>27,049</b>
leeks	789
onions	1,742
pears	744
persimmons	2,858
pineapple guavas	155
pomegranates	632
radishes	247
seafood	135
winter squash	1,478
*stone fruit	<b>6,865</b>
strawberries	581
tomatoes	6,506
zucchini	7,637



### \*Citrus

<i>crop</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
grapefruits	200
lemons	8,507
tangelos	36
tangerines	891
oranges	10,144
oranges and grapefruits	466
oranges and lemons	5,541
oranges and limes	403
oranges and tangerines	468
limes and tangerines	260



### \*Stone Fruit

<i>crop</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
apricots	309
loquats	384
nectarines	216
stone fruit	4,225
plums	1,112
plums and apricots	263
pluots and plums	281
peaches	75

### \*Leafy Greens

<i>crop</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
basil	49
bok choy	5,895
cabbage	5,817
head lettuce	4,864
kale	1,249
lettuce	7,831
spinach	793
tatsoi	551



**2014 Total:  
200,092**

Value of donate produce @  
\$0.25/lb = **\$50,023\***

\*Actual value of local, fresh produce is higher, however \$0.25 is the price the Food Bank would otherwise pay for produce sourced by the CA Association of Food Banks. \$0.25 is the cost savings amount used for financial reports.



### California's historic drought expected to continue in 2015

On January 17, 2014, California Governor Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency in the state following one of the driest years on record.

At the time of the announcement a majority of the state was already categorized as D3—or extreme drought conditions. Even after significant rainfall in December 2014, a significant majority of the state's prime agricultural regions have advanced to a category D4 (dark maroon color on the map), which is

defined as “exceptional and widespread crop/pasture losses; shortage of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells creating water emergencies.”

Unfortunately, according to a 2014 UC Davis drought report, about 5 percent (roughly 428,000 acres) of irrigated cropland in the Central Valley, Central Coast and Southern California “is going out of production” due to the drought. The report notes that Central Coast agriculture will be less affected by the drought than other areas of the state, but that the drought will continue into 2015, despite the fading possibility of an El Niño event.

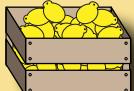
### Annual Totals

22,000 lbs



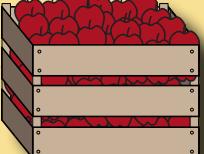
2010

37,998 lbs



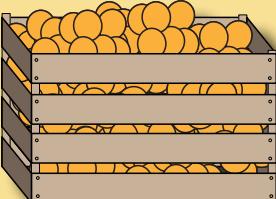
2011

99,165 lbs



2012

212,109 lbs



2013

200,092 lbs



2014

# Supporters & Partners

## 2014 GleanSLO Donors

Adan Sanchez Gomez  
Adele Anderson  
Andreen Family  
Anita Halcyon  
Promega Bioscience  
Art and Lana Tabuena  
Avila & Sons Farm  
Badasci Farm  
Bautista Farms  
Bejo Seeds  
Bellevue-Santa Fe Charter School  
Bernard & Joan Suttle  
Beverly Cohen  
Big John's  
Bill & Sally Junge  
Bishop Peak/Teach Elementary  
Branch Mill Organic Farm & Retreat Center  
Brenda Reynolds  
Bridget McGovern  
Brookshire Farm  
CA Natural Sweet Corn  
Cal Poly Horticulture & Crops Science Unit  
Cal Poly Organic Farm  
Casa Milagro  
Cavaletto Ranch  
Chaneel Malfavon  
Chavez Farms  
Chechopoulos Family  
Chumash Village Mobile Home Park  
Connie Cetti  
Cortez Farms  
Creekside Farms  
Dairy Goddess Farmstead Cheese  
SLO VEG  
David & Carol Samuel  
Debbie and Doug Johnson  
Dragon Springs Farm  
Esther's Garden  
Eunice Zolisch  
Felix Vallis  
Filomena dela Cruz  
First Page Profiles Online LLC  
FirstFruits Farm  
Frankie Williams  
Galve Family  
Gary Faucette  
Georgia Barr  
Harlow Family Orchard  
Hawthorne Elementary  
Hayashi & Sons  
Hearst Castle Groundskeeping  
Horwitz Family  
Ikeda Brothers  
Jenniffer Lewicki

Jiordana Stark  
SLO High School FFA Group  
June Minikel  
Katie Krupp  
Khrisana Edwards  
Kim Lindberg  
Kristina Olmos  
L & C Smith Groves  
Larry Gabrisch  
Louise Schiebelhut  
Madansky Family  
Mallard Lake Ranch  
Marge & Roger Castle  
Master Gardeners' Demonstration Garden  
Marty Musselman  
Mary & Gary Eister  
MJ Whelen Trust  
Molly Trapp  
Moran Family  
Moses Family  
Nora Dolan  
Olivas De Oro Olive Company  
Orchard Hill Ranch  
Pacheco Elementary  
Paulette Diaz  
Pechmann Family  
Pepper Creek Family Farm  
Pier 46 Seafood Co.  
Pismo Oceano Vegetable Exchange  
Richard Block  
Righetti Ranch  
Rosalyn Parsons  
Rosemary Baxter  
Sally Woelper  
San Luis Berry Farm  
Templeton Farmers Market Vendors  
Scott & Susan Pigeon  
Shaye Yarnell  
SLO Creek Farms  
SLO Natural Foods Co-Op  
Stanier Family  
Tierra Nueva Cohousing Homeowners Association  
Steve & Mary Lou Ross  
Sue and JT Haas  
Susan Jonas  
Talley Farms  
The Plakias Family  
Thursday San Luis Obispo Farmers Market Vendors  
Trabia Farms  
Veggie Rescue  
Velasquez Family Farm  
Vicki Schmaeman  
Yael Gott



*looking to donate  
time?  
crops?  
money?*

**visit us online at:  
[www.GLEANSLO.org](http://www.GLEANSLO.org)**

**contact us at:**  
Paso Robles Food Bank  
Attn: GleanSLO  
P.O. Box 2070  
Paso Robles, CA 93447

