

HOW TO REDUCE FOOD WASTE AND BUILD CARING COMMUNITIES THROUGH GLEANING



Society of St. Andrew

GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS ~ FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

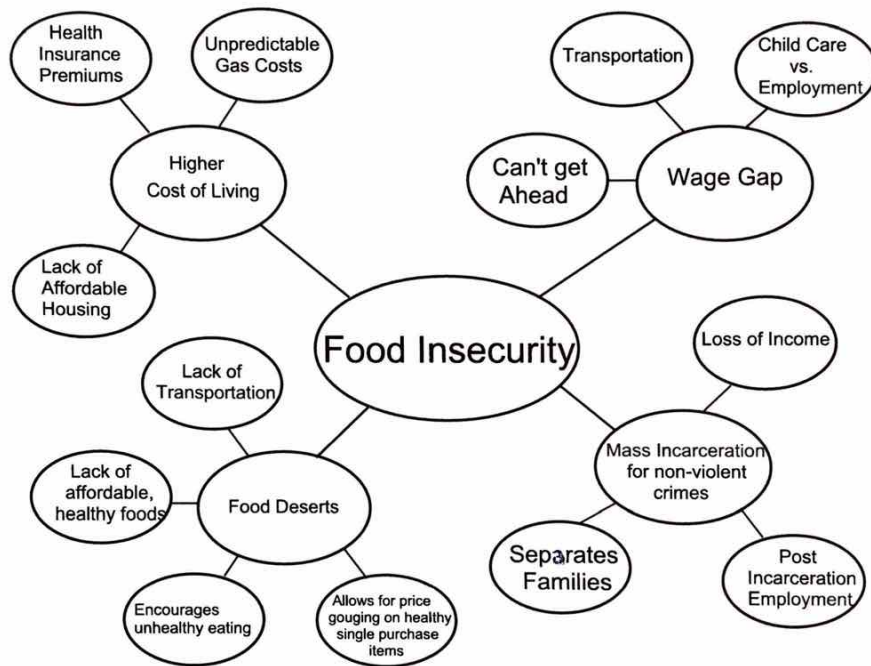
Root Causes of Food Insecurity in America

- **Lower Wages** -- Two adults making minimum wage = just above poverty level income + (deduct price of childcare if both parents are at work simultaneously)
- **Higher Cost of Living** – Gas, rent, insurance, and groceries .
 - Lack of affordable housing options -- Scarcity of Affordable Rental homes/apartments
 - Average single family home prices exceed the amount most low income households can afford
- **Healthcare** -- Many families near or below poverty level may have to choose between healthcare and healthy foods.
- **Mass Incarceration** -- Mandatory sentences for non-violent crimes could not only leave families without primary “bread winner” but often when released, jobs are difficult to obtain with a record.
- **Countless more...**



- 1 in 7 Floridians are food insecure
 - (2.8 million residents)
- 1 in 5 children are food insecure
 - (857,150 children)
- 37.6% of households receiving SNAP benefits have children
- Adequate nutrition is essential for children and adults to live physically and mentally healthy, productive lives.

[Feeding America](#)



The Web of Food Insecurity

Food Deserts

- Geographic areas where residents' access to affordable, healthy food options (especially fresh produce) is restricted or nonexistent due to the absence of grocery stores within convenient traveling distance (i.e. <1 mile)
- Food deserts are disproportionately more abundant in racial minority communities and low-income areas (where many people don't have cars.)

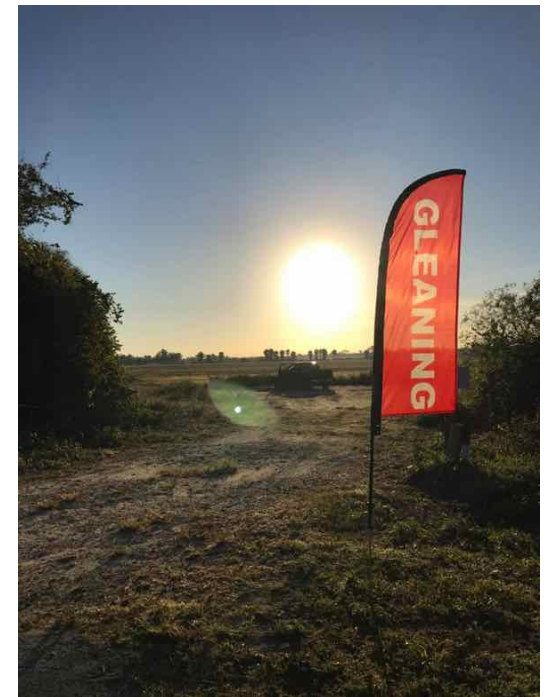
[Food is Power](#)



Gleaning in the Country

- Farms are our go to!
- It's great when we can intercept a full load of fresh produce rejected for slight blemishes and keep it from going to a landfill. Ideally however, utilizing volunteers to glean straight from the fields means people who need it are receiving the fruits and veggies even fresher than they would find at a grocery store.
- Of the estimated 125-160 billion pounds of food wasted each year, 20 billion pounds of that is directly from our fields. Our goal is to inform farm owners of the benefits of donating the literal fruits (and veggies) of their labor to us. We also describe the federal protections that are in place for food donors as well as our own liability insurance that we carry for added protection.

Foodprint.org



Gleaning in the City

- Urban gardens and markets allow fresh produce to be grown and cultivated locally, allowing easy and affordable access. Fresh Access Bucks doubles a person's SNAP benefits if used at a farmer's market.
- A gleaning team can encourage vendors to bring as much as they want without the fear of it going to waste.
- Gleaning from these markets is vital to keep the food from going to waste, keeping it local, and distributed immediately.

[Food is Power](#)



Never the Same Glean Twice



Field Gleaning



Fruit Tree Gleaning



Salvage Loads

Different Gleans for Different Teams

- Church Groups



- Youth Groups



- Scout Teams



- Families



- Individuals



- Work Groups



- Schools



- Retirees



Food Agency Cooperation



Ways to Help End Food Waste

- Educate families on the misinterpreted Best Before/Use-by date systems
- Educate families on realistic meal portions
- Educate farmers statewide about the Good Samaritan Act and enhanced federal tax deductions for food donations
- So many more...

[NRDC](#)



Gleaning as an Effective Food Waste Mitigator

