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USDA Summer of Gleaning [State Progress Reports] [9]

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Withdrawal/Redaction Sheet

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DOCUMENT NO. AND TYPE	SUBJECT/TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
001. list	re: SSNs [Personally Identifiable Information] [partial] (1 page)	09/04/1996	b(6)

COLLECTION:

Clinton Presidential Records
AmeriCorps
General Files
OA/Box Number: 24237

FOLDER TITLE:

USDA Summer of Gleaning [State Progress Reports] [9]

2013-0661-F

rc3084

RESTRICTION CODES

Presidential Records Act - [44 U.S.C. 2204(a)]

- P1 National Security Classified Information [(a)(1) of the PRA]
- P2 Relating to the appointment to Federal office [(a)(2) of the PRA]
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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

PRM. Personal record misfile defined in accordance with 44 U.S.C. 2201(3).

RR. Document will be reviewed upon request.

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

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Clinton Presidential Records Digital Records Marker

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This marker identifies the place of a tabbed divider. Given our digitization capabilities, we are sometimes unable to adequately scan such dividers. The title from the original document is indicated below.

NY

Divider Title: _____

NY

Need EOT

Patricia Bakken

Esther Behling

Carole Flood

Victorio Reyes

David Stacey

Z. Washington

no disk

data entered

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AmeriCorps *USA
USDA Summer of Gleaning State Progress Report
(CNS Grant No. 95ADFDC047)

1. Check this reporting period: Mid-Term ____ Final X

SECTION I - STATE INFORMATION

2. State: New York State

3. Agency: ARS o NRCS o Forest Service o RECD o FSA X FCS o

SECTION II - STATE CONTACT INFORMATION:

(Make Corrections if Necessary)

4. Contact Name: Paul Samuel Winkeller
(First Middle Last)

5. Title: Executive Director, Albany Service Corps

6. Address: 88 North Lake Avenue [street, number, and PO (if applicable)]
Albany, New York 12206 (City State Zip)

7. Telephone number: (518) 434-CORP (2677)

8. Fax number: (518) 434-5358

9. E-Mail Address (if any) : _____

SECTION III - MEMBER DATA:

10. Attached are sheets concerning **AmeriCorps Member data**. The first type of Member Data sheet lists each Member, by operating site, for whom the USDA Office of National Service has received at least a Member enrollment form. The sheet will also list the number of slots allotted to that site and the number of enrollment forms received by the Department; you will need to fill in the number of Members actually enrolled. The sheets give the Member's name, social security number, and enrollment status. Please review the data and check for:

1. Correct spelling of the name;
2. Accuracy of the Social Security Number;

3. Service type (F= Full-time member; P= Part-time member);
4. Program Status (A = Active; C = Completed; E = Ended Service Early)*
5. Trust Status (I = Earning Award; II = Earned Award; III = Did Not Earn Award; IV = On Hold by the Corporation for National Service; V = Under Review).

Alongside each name, give the total number of hours served (includes training time) by the Member this reporting period. Do this even if the Member has terminated during the reporting period. For Members who are on the list but have terminated or had their service type or status changed, just cross out the old status and print the new one alongside it. Make your corrections directly on this sheet and submit it along with the other portions of your progress report.

The second type of Member Data sheets give an Operating Site ID number and the name of the site supervisor but has no Member names listed. That is because the USDA Office of National Service has not received Enrollment forms for any Members from these sites. Please print the necessary information for each member on the appropriate sheet and submit an Enrollment form to the Department. If a Member began service but terminated, we still need a form for that person --- indicates their status as terminated. Also note whether or not the site sent the enrollment form directly to the Corporation for National Service. It is hoped that by now everyone understands that all forms (except health and child care) should come directly to the USDA Director of National Service and NOT--- repeat NOT --- the Corporation for National Service.

REMEMBER:

- a) ALL members should be listed even though they only served a few days. If an enrollment form was submitted for a Member who then terminates either by officially notifying you or simply by walking away from the program, an End of Term of Service Form MUST be submitted for the Member.
- b) If Members are serving at an operating site and their name does not appear on the list for that site, first check to see if the Member is listed under a different operating site; if not, then an Enrollment Form must be submitted so the person can be enrolled in the program.
- c) List all the hours a Member served during the reporting period regardless if they terminated or if they started in the middle of the period.

11. Please list the **total number of volunteers** who took part in activities which were sponsored or organized by all the Members in the state during this period.

1st half	2nd half	Total
25	79	104

12. Please list the total number of **hours of community service completed by the**

1st half	2nd half	Total
196	396	592

Team Albany

Progress Report

July 26th, 1996

Vol. 1

This week has been a very successful one in the area of the acquisition of produce.

The team has done even more sorting, washing and re-packaging of both team-picked and surplus produce.

One of our team members, Esther is on a one week educational leave. Team leader Carole Flood, has been on sick leave Tuesday through Friday of this week.

The remainder of our team has been busily going about our individual and group tasks as well as covering the tasks of absent members.

On Tuesday of this week, DJ, Carrie, Torry, Zahirah, Mikki and two volunteers gleaned the Cucumber fields at Roxbury Farm. We were able to bring in 3,125 lbs of cucumbers!

We found ourselves to be an incredibly creative team when faced with the issue of not enough boxes for the cucumbers. In the truck bed itself, we constructed a storage bin from plastic bags and boxes and were able to transport the cucumbers back to our work area, where we washed and re-packaged them.

Volunteer Veena Chandra and her son were a great help to the team during the cucumber project, helping to increase production greatly.

On this same day, the team was able to go to the Menands Regional Market, where they acquired close to 1500 lbs of surplus produce. On Wednesday, much of this food was distributed throughout food pantries Renselaer, Schenectady, and Albany Counties.

Pantries served this week were:

Albany County

St. John's

Trinity Institution

Traveler's Aid Society

CCC South Pearl Distribution Point

Schenectady County

SICM

Salvation Army

Wildwood Programs

Renselaer County

Unity House Street Ministry Food Pantry

St. Joseph's Food Pantry

Pahl Transitional Services

Pahl House

Total Amount Of Gleaned Vegetables

Cucumbers-3125 lbs Roxbury Farm

Menands Market Donations

Tuesday- 1554lbs**Thursday-2215 lbs****Friday- 1300 lbs****Total for this week: 8,194 lbs****Grand Total: 14,679 lbs. through 7/26/96**

(Approx 73% of goal weight after 4 weeks)

Volunteers/ Sustainability

Zahirah has been working at least 4-8 hours per day contacting volunteers organizations as well as members of the Capital Gleaning Network. Her work will definitely leave a positive impact on sustaining the work of the project.

Harvest for the Hungry Garden

The team has done a great deal of work mulching, planting, watering and weeding the garden.

Public Education

There has been a great deal of interest surrounding our project and we take every opportunity to explain the concept of gleaning, pantry stocking and produce management. While at the pantries, whenever possible we explain fresh vegetable preparation. Esther has been working with food pantries and educational components.

Infrastructure and Development

This week the team will be releasing the first edition of our newsletter. By circulating the information of our accomplishments to a broad range of people, the team hopes to generate enough interest in the project, to expand the opportunities for sustainability. We hope to inform the citizens of the capital region along with our governmental supervisors of the necessity of our work and the level of commitment of our AmeriCorps team.

Conclusion

The team is four weeks into our project and we are 3/4ths of the way to our goal of gleaned produce. Furthermore our work with volunteer generation, food preparation and our newsletter has helped expand our community outreach. Outreach is an important component of sustainability. Our work is presently helping to feed people. We hope that the extensiveness of our work will allow this to continue in the future. We would like to add that we have only just begun to feel situated in our work and expect our present success to continue to increase.

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9/04/96

10. MEMBER DATA:

OP SITE ID: 936A

Site Supervisor: Paul Winkeller

PHONE: 518-437-2677

STATE: NY

Agency/Org Name: Albany Service Corps

FAX: 5184375358

City: Albany, NY

No. of Members Allocated by USDA: 6

			HOURS								
Member Name		SSN	SER STAT	PGM STAT	TRT STAT	1st Rpt	2nd Rpt	3rd Rpt	4th Rpt	Total	
BAKKEN, PATRICIA	M.	(b)(6)	S	A E	A III			162	<u>34</u>	196	162
BEHLING, ESTHER	M.		S	A E	A III			136		112	136
FLOOD, CAROLE	L.		S	A E	A III			157		141	201
REYES, VICTORIA ⁰	W.		S	A	I			184	<u>228</u>	412	184
STACEY, DAVID-JOHN	.		S	A	I			201	<u>304</u>	505	201
WASHINGTON, ZAHIRAH	.		S	A C	A II			204	<u>276</u>	480	204
								Total Hours:		1930	1166

No. of Members Allocated by USDA: 6

No. of Active Members Whose Enrollment Forms were recieved at USDA (not including terminations): 6

No. of Members for Whom Forms Have NOT Been Recieved*: 0

REMEMBER THAT THE TOTAL NUMBER OF HOURS FOR EACH MEMBER SHOULD BE THE HOURS SERVED AND NOT INCLUDE THE HOURS FOR PERSONAL LEAVE (16) AND HOLIDAYS (16). IF YOU HAVE BEEN COUNTING THESE PLEASE ADJUST THE FINAL REPORT'S HOURS SO THAT THE TOTAL IS AT LEAST 480 OF SERVICE (assuming the person was full-time and successfully completed the program.) You can have more than 480 hrs for a total just be sure all the hours were service hours. Thank You

REMEMBER, MEMBERS WHOSE FORMS HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED AT USDA ARE NOT CONSIDERED ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM

volunteers cited above during this period.

SECTION IV - PROGRESS TOWARDS ACCOMPLISHING SERVICE OBJECTIVES:

13. Original Community Service Objectives: Attached are sheets summarizing the community service objectives that were originally approved for each operating site. In cases where a single objective may take an entire year to complete, that objective may have a sub-objectives listed. You need to fill in the column marked "Mid-Term Quantity" and the column marked "Mid-Term Success" --- as well as any column that is blank, has a zero, or has a question mark --- for EVERY operating site. Each chart should have the following columns:

"State" - The standard two-letter code for your state

"Obj No" - Each community service objective for each site is assigned an individual number

"Op Site" - Each site's unique operating site identification

"PGM Code" - Each type of service has been assigned a unique code to describe that type of service. See the appendix to this report entitled "Community Service PGM Code List"

"Obj/Impact Statement" - A few words verbally summarizing the community service objective

"Summer's QTY Target" - The Summer's numerical goal for the people or things to be aided

"Target Unit of Measurement" - The unit of measure used in the previous column

"Final Quantity" - Provide a hard number indicating progress towards the "Summer's QTY Target"

"Summer's Success Target" - Number for a way of measuring quality of service provided --- if this column is blank, has a question mark, or has a zero, please replace it with the accurate information

"Success Unit of Measure" - Explanation of the number in the previous column --- if this column is blank, has a question mark, or has a zero, please replace it with the accurate information

"Final Success" - Provide a hard number indicating progress towards the "Summer's Success Target"

14. Progress Towards Accomplishing Additional Community Service Objectives: Use this section to report progress towards completing additional new objectives --- those objectives in addition to the main objectives of each project listed on the proceeding page. Please fill in all columns for all objectives. It is important to make sure that each objective is listed with its own "OP site" (Operating site) code; this ensures that we know precisely what service is performed at each site.

9/04/96

QUESTION 13. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACOMPLISHING ORIGINAL COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

(Under "Second Half Quantity" enter the amount of work done since the mid-term report. Do the same for "Second Half Success".)

Remember, since this is the last or final report, there should be no objectives with a zero entered in quantity or success, if a zero was entered for the first report (mid-term). (See your mid-term report) If you have objectives that you could not do anything on please explain why.

State	Site	Obj No.	PGM Code	Obj/Impact Statement	Projects		Second	Project's		Second
					QTY	Unit of Measure	Half	Success	Half	
					Target	QTY	Unit of Measure	Quantity	Target	Success
NY	936A	1	EN-H007A	Farmland gleaned for distribution of food to hungry citizens	20000	# of lbs of food rescued		13333	# of individuals fed with gleaned food	
NY	936A		H007		20,000			39,405	20,000	52,738
					lbs			lbs	lbs	lbs
					food recovered					food recovered

Please fill in all columns for each objective. Under "Obj No.," please give each new objective a number different from the number used for any of the objectives on the proceeding page. Under "PGM Code", please use a one-letter and three-digit code to describe the service from the code list provided at the end of this report. Under "Obj/Impact statement," provide a several-word summary of the nature of the service project -- this verbal summary should roughly match the "PGM Code" listed in the previous column. Under "Summer's QTY Target," provide a hard number for the people or things aided. Under "Target Unit of Measurement," specify what unit of measure was used in the previous column -- such as miles, number of people served, acres, etc. Under "Final Quantity," provide a hard number indicating progress towards the "Summer's QTY Target" that was accomplished during this reporting period. Under "Summer's Success Target," provide a hard number for a way of measuring how well the service was provided. Under "Successes Unit of Measure," specify exactly what the number in the previous column meant. Under "Final Success," provide a hard number indicating progress towards the "Summer's Success Target" that was accomplished during this reporting period.

Success Measure	OP Unit of Quantity	State Target	Summer's Obj PGM Site No. Code Measure Success	Summer's QTY Obj/Impact statement	Success Quantity Target	Final Unit of
{SAMPLE:}						
CA	Y05A	18	EN96	Constructing whale nesting boxes	3	Boxes
90	% meeting stand.	95%				1

15. Community Service Objectives Narrative: Use this space to describe in more detail accomplishments towards the original community service objectives reported in question 13 and/or your additional community service objectives reported in question 14. Please make sure you include the Operating Site ID Number in each narrative description so we can be clear which accomplishment is matched to which site.

Following a very wet spring, growing conditions were close to ideal in upstate New York in the seven counties targeted for the Albany AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning. This factor, combined with the energy and enthusiasm of the Gleaning Team and a broad range of willing and committed project partners, resulted in a near tripling of our original goal of 20,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables gleaned and distributed throughout the local emergency feeding network. At 52,738 pounds, as of 9/17/96, the Albany AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning Team is still working and still counting - and hopes to triple its original weight of 20,000 pounds of food recovered during a twelve week period. As described in our regular reports, sent both to our federal agency sponsors and local partners, we have taken a multi-pronged approach to food recovery. Working in close cooperation with our five original major local project partners, fresh vegetables and fruits have been gleaned from the Menands Regional Wholesale Market, from a local one acre Harvest For the Hungry Garden, from local growers spanning a seven county region and from urban agriculture sites like community gardens.

16. Community Building Objectives Narrative: Briefly describe how projects have brought together diverse groups of people, empowered communities to solve their own problems, built-long

term structures that will last beyond each AmeriCorps Member's term of service, and generally improved the abilities of local citizens to help improve their own lives.

Our Gleaning Team involved sixteen volunteer groups and countless individuals in their food recovery activities this summer. One member of the team, Ms. Zahirah Washington, concentrated her efforts on volunteer development, calling over 900 local groups and individuals in an attempt to have them integrate gleaning and food recovery into their ongoing community service work. We are especially pleased with the urban-rural linkages created by our volunteer generation activities. The Capital District is somewhat unique in that it is both highly urban and highly rural, and the involvement of city residents as volunteers helps foster a better understanding of and appreciation for farming and rural landscapes. The Summer of Gleaning Team coordinated their efforts with the relatively new Capital Gleaning Network, who will be assuming responsibility for coordinating the work of these new volunteers after September 25, 1996, the concluding date of our AmeriCorps project.

Gleaning activities have been fully integrated into ServAlbany Day, October 19, 1996 - an annual day of community service during which we expect 1500+ local volunteers. Time has also been set aside during the Albany Service Corps' Year Three AmeriCorps work plan, which has a strong sustainable environmental focus, to include gleaning, in close coordination by the Capital Gleaning Network, which has been expanded and strengthened due to the outreach activities of the USDA AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning team. The Albany Service Corps has worked closely with its State Commission to promote AmeriCorps related food recovery across New York State, and has offered to provide ongoing technical assistance to any New York State AmeriCorps program seeking increased involvement in gleaning activities.

17. AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives Narrative: Briefly describe how the AmeriCorps Members themselves have benefited from serving in the program, particularly in regard to expanding their own educational opportunity and increasing their own ethic of personal responsibility. Describe specific skills learned by Members through either their service or training. Describe any Members that earned a GED or otherwise advanced their education. Describe any Members that left public assistance to join AmeriCorps. Relate how AmeriCorps allowed Members to continue college or graduate school. Describe how Members may have changed their ethic of work, citizenship, or community volunteerism.

The core of the Albany Gleaning Team which served the entire term were a mature, independent and highly motivated group of young men and women to begin with. One of the graduating members, Zahirah Washington, has applied for a job at Vassar College in Poughkeepsie, where she is a sophomore, to be Homeless and Hunger Coordinator for Vassar Volunteers. Following hoped for service in the Peace Corps, she intends to pursue a career as an environmental lawyer. Victorio Reyes is using his AmeriCorps Education Award to help pay off his student loans, and is applying to work in AmeriCorps programs in Puerto Rico, where he plans to move in November. David-John Stacey has earned a second AmeriCorps education award for college, where he hopes to build upon already strong and practical farming skills to pursue a career in organic agriculture. The Albany Team, whose strong communication skills resulted in superb local media coverage of their activities, along with seven issues of an informative newsletter distributed throughout the region, have worked

together those final weeks to prepare an impressive year-round proposal which they intend to submit to USDA to establish a full-time, year-round Anti-Hunger AmeriCorps team.

SECTION V - SUCCESS STORIES:

18. Unique Successes or Great Stories : Briefly describe one or two unique and/or exceptional success stories, a program highlight, or a great story from your state. Please explain any instance in which AmeriCorps Members recruited non-AmeriCorps community volunteers for projects. Please include all media coverage, including original newspaper clips, videotapes of TV coverage, and cassette tapes of radio coverage; any letters of support or thank you letters; "before and after" photographs, brochures, posters, and newsletters created by the project; and other types of creative documentation.

The team worked closely with our ever-helpful and completely supportive FSA partner, Tom Della Rocco from Albany County, to create a jam packed series of gleaning activities and media events during the National Week of Food Recovery in mid-August. The result was 100% coverage in local print media, as well as one long piece on local television and another on radio.

The creativity and humor which marked the unique spirit of this team has already been reported but needs to be emphasized by two anecdotes. **Let Them Glean Cake:** One day the Gleaning team found themselves having trouble unloading all of their food. They traveled to the Salvation Army in Schenectady and found that they had the same problem - too much of one thing. The team quickly bartered tomatoes for cake and proceeded to deliver this cake to other food pantries. Let it be known that the team showed little restraint, and gorged themselves with black forest cake. **Where are the Russians?** After one of the team's gleaning adventures at Roxbury Biodynamic Farm the team found that they had filled their trucks to the hilt with beets. Although the team had been in this position before with other produce, they soon found that beets were not quite as popular as sweet corn. Perplexed by what to do with this plethora of beets, the team began to ask, "Where are the Russians?" After a lot of creative food delivery the team unloaded all of the beets, but they are still in search of the Russians. These AmeriCorps members clearly combined a sense of purpose and "right" livelihood with an ongoing sense of fun!

One day when the team was overwhelmed with food they took a full truck of corn and tomatoes to a local low income senior citizens housing project where they proceeded to distribute the food by way of standing on the roof of the truck and yelling "free food." Although reluctant at first many seniors were soon flocking to the truck and loading their satchels with fresh produce one kindly old lady told the team that she and her friends had just been talking about how nice some fresh tomatoes would be and at that moment the team pulled up with a truckload. The smiles and thank you's the team received that day let the team know that all their hard work was not only worthwhile but appreciated as well.

SECTION VI - CHALLENGES

19. Overall Difficulties Faced by the Program: Use this section to report on any problems your Members have encountered in the program this period. These should be significant issues which were

related to achieving objectives, significant delays in implementation, administrative problems, or any other expectations, events or incidents that have caused the Members concern. State the problem concisely and how the issue has, or has not been resolved. Be sure to outline the steps taken and identify any resources needed to assist in resolving the problem.

Lack of sufficient computer equipment for use by members of the Gleaning Team has slowed down the preparation of weekly reports and newsletters, as well as the tracking of accomplishments in an efficient manner.

SECTION V - GENERAL INFORMATION

20. National Identity Activities: Please describe any activities undertaken by Members that fostered the national identity of AmeriCorps. These could include joint service activities, meetings with other AmeriCorps projects, national telephone conference calls, use of Internet to communicate with other sites, etc.

As part of the promotion for ServAlbany Day, which will have a strong gleaning component, all 1500+ participants will wear a tee shirt which includes the AmeriCorps logo on the sleeve. A highway billboard promoting ServAlbany Day, which includes an 8 foot diameter AmeriCorps logo has gone up on a major highway adjacent to downtown Albany (787 South) which is passed by 60,000 cars daily. USDA AmeriCorps Director Joel Berg visited our program during the National Week of Food Recovery and we received extensive media coverage of his remarks on behalf of AmeriCorps and food recovery.

21. Organizational Changes: Please outline and describe any changes in your program s organization and/or structure during the quarter.

Team member Mikki Bakken left the Gleaning Team due to illness and injury. Team Member Ester Behling also resigned due to payroll difficulties and another longer term work opportunity which dovetails better with her independent study at Goddard College. Second year Albany Service Corps member Carrie Gordon was assigned to the Gleaning Team on a full-time basis during the second half of the program, and other Albany Service Corps staff and corps members have been "loaned to the team, as needed, but especially for fast breaking and potentially overwhelming gleaning opportunities.

22. Organizational Improvements: Please write any suggestions by you, your Members, site managers, or anyone else regarding ways in which the USDA or CNS AmeriCorps program could be improved.

In projects with a program delivery system like ours, which include two equal local co-partners like the Albany Service Corps and FSA, make certain that each one receives all the same information from Washington at the same time! There were some occasions when this was not the case, causing some confusion and duplication of effort.

23. Primary Training and Technical Assistance Needs: Please specify precisely what kind of staff or Member training or other technical assistance can be provided by USDA, the Corporation for National Service, or other sources to improve your projects.

Though it might be expensive and logistically challenging, it would be useful to have a training (perhaps regional?) for the Gleaning Team Leader selected to explore in detail their role and responsibilities. Or, at the very least, a Job Description based upon this year's program and a manual outlining this extremely difficult and critical role should be developed. (Paul Winkeller from Albany would be happy to work with the USDA AmeriCorps Program and perhaps the Corporation or technical assistance providers at NASCC to prepare this material!)

SECTION VI - FOOD RECOVERY SPECIFICS

24. Partnerships - On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following:

a) Please explain how your project identified its partners:

As part of the ongoing anti-hunger work carried out by the Albany Service Corps during the past five years, we have developed strong working relationships with the five primary partners described in our original proposal. Following an initial meeting during the late spring to discuss the AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning project, the collaboration worked together to shape a program which was responsive to all their mutual interests. The original "core" group of partners has expanded much beyond its original scope, as noted in the most recent updated partner list provided to USDA.

b) Please provide a final, updated, list of partner organizations:

- 1. Northeastern New York Regional Food Bank**
- 2. Hunger Action Network of New York State**
- 3. Food Pantries of the Capital District**
- 4. Honest Weight Food Co-Op**
- 5. Schenectady Inner City Ministry**
- 6. Capital Gleaning Network**

The following partners are farms/farmers whose farms we gleaned at:

7. Andrew Squire
8. Tim and Colleen Stanton
9. Jane Lyman
10. Bill and Lois Geinicki
11. Jean Paul & Kelly Courtens, Betsy Cashen
12. Robert Whipple
13. Dave and Ed Oreshan
14. Kinderhook Creek Farms, Inc. - Larry Eckhardt
15. Roger, Jim, and Cindy Barber
16. Thompson Finch Farm - Don McClean

The following partners are food pantries which the team brought the gleaned produce to for distribution:

17. St. Joseph's Food Pantry
18. Capital City Rescue Mission
19. St. John's
20. Trinity Institute
21. Carver Community Center
22. Salvation Army (Schenectady and Albany)
23. Cohoes Community Action
24. Unity House
25. New Hope Gospel
26. Marillac Family Shelter
27. Jewish Community Center
28. St. Vincent de Paul
29. Bethlehem Food Pantry

c) Please detail contributions to the project, both financial and in-kind, provided by partners.

The six major project partners noted above worked with the Gleaning Team members to develop a strategic plan which guided the work for the summer, and through regular contact and meetings functioned as an Advisory Committee, providing advice, guidance and fine tuning the work of the project as necessary. The Honest Weight Food Co-op provided the team with use of their old co-op building for \$150 for three months. This building costs them \$350/month, which means the Co-op absorbed \$900 worth of building costs for the Summer of Gleaning project.

d) If partners raised funds specifically for this project, please explain how.

Other than the Albany Service Corps, none of the partners raised any funds to support this project.

e) Please explain specifically what concrete assistance was provided by each partner organization.

1. Capital Gleaning Network: volunteers and list of volunteer organizations to contact for gleaning days; lists of farmers to contact for potential gleaning opportunities; ongoing technical assistance, particularly with regard to project sustainability issues.
2. Hunger Action Network of New York State: coordination with the Harvest For the Hungry Project; help with distribution to soup kitchens, food pantries and shelters; signage which was placed in local community gardens to encourage the donation of excess produce; ongoing technical assistance.
3. Food Pantries For The Capital District: provided the Team with a list of local emergency feeding sites for distribution of recovered food; ongoing technical assistance.
4. Schenectady Inner City Ministry: provided a major distribution site in Schenectady County; ongoing technical assistance re project sustainability.
5. Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York: coordination with Produce For The People, which recovers excess produce from the Menands Regional Market and was a major source of

recovered food before the local crops matured; ongoing technical assistance and program support.

f) Please explain what worked best in the partnerships.

Positive support and constructive criticism was received from all partners at some point during the project. Closely coordinating the Gleaning Team activities with existing anti-hunger work throughout the Capital Region prevented us from duplicating activities and maximized our agencies individual strengths!

g) Please explain what your greatest challenges were in forging and implementing your partnerships.

Somewhat similar to f, in that it took a great deal of dialogue to establish who would do what during the course of this project.

25. **Donors** - On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following:

a) Please detail how many food donors there were to your project and name all donors other than individual farmers.

Produce Wholesalers:

American Fresh Produce
California Fresh Produce
Pray's Produce
Pesha Ready Peel Produce
W. F. Ryan Produce
Esposito's Produce

b) Please detail how the donors were contacted.

The team recruited their support in cooperation with the NENY Regional Food Bank. Each of these wholesalers is stationed at the Menands Regional Wholesale Market. The Gleaning Team showed up in person and met with the manager of each wholesale distributor. The team explained the purpose and goals of the summer AmeriCorps project and informed potential donors how they could be supportive of our work. Most of the wholesalers were quite receptive to us, wanting to see the food in their inventories used to feed hungry people in the Capital District rather than go to waste.

c) Explain how, precisely, the donors provided food and what oversight, if any, they provided in the process.

The wholesalers stored the food until the team picked it up on Tuesday's and Thursday's. They loaded the food onto the trucks with forklifts.

d) Detail the greatest success your project faced in dealing with donors.

We provided the donors with a positive way of clearing their cooler space without having to waste food. The symbiotic relationship between the team and the donors, allowed us to recover thousands of pounds of food weekly, while helping the donors get rid of food.

e) Detail the greatest challenges faced in your dealings with donors.

Our greatest difficulty was an initial confusion about the AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning Team and the Regional Food Bank's Produce for the People Program at the Menands Market.

f) Detail any instance in which an anti-hunger organization believed, correctly or incorrectly, that your project was competing with them for the same donor. Explain how you overcame this potential conflict.

The problem described in (e) was resolved by good communication and on-site coordination of efforts - early in the project, Gleaning Team members accompanied Produce for the People staff to the Regional Market, allowing donors to get a sense of the difference between the two programs. Issues resolved included the varying quality of produce acceptable to each party (generally, the Gleaning Team took a lower but still usable grade) and the timing of the pick-up by each program so that both parties would complement rather than conflict with each other.

26. Collection, Transportation, and Storage - On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following:

a) Explain in detail the physical process for collecting the food, delivering it to a distribution site, and storing it.

We utilize Albany Service Corps vehicles, primarily one ton pick-up trucks, to travel to gleaning sites - mainly the Menands Regional Market and area farms - and then move the recovered food back to distribution points in Albany, Rensselaer and Schenectady Counties. Because of the larger than anticipated amounts of food we gleaned and moving, we frequently brought the recovered food to an interim site - the old Honest Weight Food Co-op, which has a walk-in cooler for our use - for sorting, packing and storing for next day delivery.

b) How did you obtain adequate resources to collect the food?

Trucks were provided by the Albany Service Corps; labor was supplied through USDA AmeriCorps funding; mileage was covered under our USDA Summer of Gleaning grant; containers were mostly donated or recycled from project partners; the storage facility and walk-in cooler, costing us \$50 per month, representing a partial donation from a major project partner.

c) How did you obtain adequate resources to transport the food?
(see b above)

d) How did you obtain adequate resources to store the food?
(see b above)

e) How did you obtain bushels and/or containers to hold and transport the food?
(see b above)

f) Explain any special steps you took to ensure food safety.

Produce gleaned from area farms was fresh and only a high grade was selected in the field then immediately put in the cooler or distributed to area emergency feeding programs. Food recovered from the Menands Market was sorted, either on-site or at the Honest Weight storage facility, with vegetables and fruits not up to grade composted either at the local Harvest For The Hungry Garden compost area or at the City of Albany compost facility.

g) Detail your greatest challenges in the area of food safety.

Hot weather encourages rapid wilting and fruit/vegetable deterioration - fortunately, we had the big walk-in cooler to slow everything down! Also, some of the recycled containers we used were somewhat second rate, encouraging excessive jostling of produce during transportation.

27. **Recipients** - On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following:

a) Please list the names and numbers that helped identify food recipients and helped distribute the food to recipients.

HANNYS	(518) 434-7371
Regional Food Bank	(518) 786-3691
Capital Gleaning Network	(518) 426-9331
Food Pantries of the Capital District	(518) 462-3459
Schenectady Inner City Ministry	(518) 346-4445

b) Explain how the families in need were identified.

Except in moments of rare spontaneous giveaways (see Great Stories section) we did ^{not} distribute to individual families directly but instead, and more efficiently, through establishing members of the local emergency feeding network, as identified by our original major project partners.

c) Explain how the food was physically distributed.
(See 26a above)

d) Explain what your greatest success was in identifying those in need and distributing the food.

Moving more than 25 tons of fresh nutritious mostly local food into the emergency food system was our greatest success - many items were either unique to these programs or at a level of freshness and nutrition previously unencountered!

e) Explain your greatest challenge in identifying families in need and/or distributing the food to such families.

We had no problems identifying sites for food distribution, or getting them the food we had recovered. The local emergency food system is well organized and well-networked, and the numbers of hungry families - especially in the three major local urban areas - is growing rapidly, according to project partners.

f) Please explain any ways in which you enabled recipients themselves to help collect their own food.

Members of selected local soup kitchens and food pantries in Albany have worked alongside the Albany Service Corps and other Summer of Gleaning Project Partners for the past five years, and this relationship continued during this AmeriCorps project.

28. Liability:

a) Did liability issues have a significant impact upon your project?

No

b) Were your states' "Good Samaritan" laws sufficient to provide adequate protection and comfort to your project's partners?

Yes

29. Volunteers - On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following:

a) Provide detailed specifics about the tasks performed by non-compensated community volunteers.

Community volunteers either traveled with the AmeriCorps Gleaning Team or met us on-site at area farms. They worked with us primarily in the harvesting and transporting of produce rather than the sorting and distribution, which we carried off mostly ourselves.

b) Detail the methods that were most successful in recruiting volunteers.

Initially, we worked closely with the Capital Gleaning Network, which has its own cadre of gleaning volunteers. We expanded on this list through extensive outreach on the part of Team member Zahirah Washington, who got names of groups primarily from project partners. New gleaning contacts have been passed along to the Capital Gleaning Network for the purpose of sustaining the work begun under AmeriCorps.

c) Explain the greatest challenges you faced in recruiting volunteers.

Recruiting is extremely labor and time intensive, made even more difficult that gleaning projects are for the most part last-minute opportunities and many of the phone numbers of known local gleaning volunteers were evening numbers and the team worked primarily during the day. Without such a

strong group of local project partners, with pre-existing experience in the art of gleaning, we are not certain we would have made the progress we did in the area of volunteer generation.

d) Detail the time and other resources that were required to recruit, supervise, train, and motivate volunteers.

The time devoted to volunteers was mostly spent finding them. Gleaners, by their very nature and the work, are for the most part unusually motivated individuals!

e) Detail the effectiveness of any other sources of labor, such as alternative sentencing youth, that were utilized by your project.

We were able to access help from our host agency, the Albany Service Corps, for larger than expected, late breaking gleaning projects. Members of the Corps are also highly motivated and well supervised.

f) Detail how much and the nature of the training your project provided to volunteers and other workers.

Volunteer training included explaining the purpose of the summer USDA AmeriCorps program and the most efficient manner in which to pick, harvest, sort and store gleaning fresh fruit and vegetables. Many of the volunteers had prior gleaning experience and thus required minimal supervision and training.

g) Explain which types of service were most suitable to which age-groups of volunteers.

The act of gleaning has meaning to every individual involved, and because fruits, vegetables and the containers produce is carried in is of varying sizes and weights everyone can glean!

30. **Budget** - On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following:

a) Detail any items on your budget for which you needed less money than originally anticipated.
(See attached spread sheet and budget narrative)

b) Detail any items on your budget for which you required more money than originally anticipated.
(See attached spread sheet and budget narrative)

31. **Replicability and sustainability :**

a) Could your project be replicated in other locations? Explain.

Absolutely. As a member of the New York State corps Collaboration, a statewide coalition of partially funded AmeriCorps youth corps programs - several of which have experience in anti-hunger activities - we stand poised to transfer our experience and knowledge. In recent correspondence, we have also indicated our willingness to the staff at the New York State Commission on National and

have also indicated our willingness to the staff at the New York State Commission on National and Community Service to provide training and technical assistance to all programs within the state funded by AmeriCorps - both formula, competitive and National Direct - seeking involvement with gleaning and anti-hunger activities (community gardens, Harvest For The Hungry) into their Year Three AmeriCorps work plan.

b) Detail what steps you and/or your partners have taken to sustain the project beyond November.

Sustainability has been a focal point of our planning since the inception of this project, beginning when the six original partners met to discuss moving forward with the USDA Summer of Gleaning proposal. We have closely coordinated our planning and ongoing work with these partners, transferring information, names and knowledge to the appropriate partners, including the Albany Service Corps, which has integrated food recovery and anti-hunger activities (community gardens, Harvest For The Hungry) into their Year Three AmeriCorps work plan.

32. Community support: Please detail any support you have received from local, state, and national political, religious, business, and/or community leaders. (Please attach any letters of support)

Please note attached Evaluation form - responses to follow.

33. Media coverage: Please explain what efforts were most effective and least effective in securing media coverage for your projects.

Our host agency, the Albany Service Corps, has received extensive media coverage during its six year existence, and we were able to reach out to their network of contacts, mainly in print and television, to secure our own coverage (see attached press clips). We had less luck with radio coverage for the Summer of Gleaning project, primarily because this has not been an area as well explored or exploited by the Albany Service Corps, whose staff provided the bulk of public relations assistance.

34. Project Milestones - On a separate sheet of paper, please answer the following:

a) Please lay-out, with specific dates, the specific milestones your project achieved.

July 23, 1996- the Gleaning team travelled to our very first vegetable farm, until this point we'd only been to strawberry fields, but at Roxbury Farm we gleaned 3,125 lbs of cucumbers in a morning. This was a real boost to the team's spirits.

July, 31, 1996- while gleaning cucumbers and garlic at Roxbury Biodynamic Farm the team surpassed our summer produce goal of 20,00 lbs.

August 5-9, 1996- this was the first week we had large volunteer groups to glean with us. Two groups came out with a total of 27 volunteers. We discovered with all those extra hands you can pick lots of sweet corn!

National Week of Food Recovery- During this week the team gleaned 11,493 lbs of fresh fruits and vegetables from local farms. We had 49 volunteers this week and received media coverage in every local paper, on one radio station, and a segment on the local evening news.

b) Please provide a list of the top dozen or so steps you believe would be critical for anyone in the future attempting to implement a project such as yours.

1. Don't reinvent the wheel - identify organizations and individuals involved in local gleaning activities and reach out, early in the process.
2. Develop a short-term implementation plan.
3. Develop a long-range sustainability plan - assume you will disappear in twelve weeks!
4. In seeking out resources - vehicles, storage, containers, whatever - think borrow first, second and third. Try to spend as little money as possible, on anything! Most everything needed is out there - and once you have articulated the goals of your gleaning project, ask nicely and humbly, with a smile...
5. Ongoing communication with project partners is key - both a formal regularly scheduled meeting and informal dialogue via phone and fax. Creative blind copying of written correspondence also fosters strong working relationships.
6. If conflict over "turf" arises, don't ignore or repress the problem - bring conflicting or confused partners together and work out a mutually beneficial "win-win" solution: remember, the main point of all this is to feed hungry people, not build our individual empires!
7. Send out regular press releases and PSA's highlighting your activities, and follow up with reporters and assignment editors to nail down specific coverage for exciting gleaning events. Reproduce and printed articles in a clean, attractive format (white out lines, make sure they are centered with date and name of paper, copy on to attractive recycled paper stock) and use these like flyers in a political campaign, to explain and promote your work in the community.
8. The value of a thank you note or call - handwritten, personal and timely - can not be underestimated. Saying thanks builds trust, appreciation and community, enabling you to ask for and get help and resources for fast-breaking and stressful, complicated work like food recovery.
9. Have fun, take time out to "smell the coffee" (or enjoy the produce and the landscape!), and don't work too crazy hours. No matter how important the work, and gleaning/food recovery is helping meet a vital human need, it is important to take care of yourself and to remain focused on your environment and your own sense of self and personal growth.

{END OF REPORT}

ALBANY, NY: AMERICORPS SUMMER OF GLEANING

ITEM	USDA	ASC BUDGET	WHAT ASC SPENT*	MATCH	ASC MATCH	TOTAL
BASIC MEMBER (5 @ \$2241.60)	\$11,208.00					\$11,208.00
TEAM LEADER (1 @ \$3,468.40)	\$3,468.40					\$3,468.40
FICA (\$11,208 X .0765)	\$857.41					\$857.41
WORKERS COMP (our rate is .009)	\$132.09					\$132.09
UNIFORMS (6 ASC T's @ \$7.50)					\$45.00	\$45.00
MEMBER TRAINING (5 days @ \$125 each from Capital Gleaning Network)		\$625.00	\$625.00	1 DAY ASC TRAINING	\$250.00	\$875.00
TRANSPORTATION (6 members x 300 mls/wk. x12 wks. x .30/ml.)		\$6,480.00	\$2,750.00	2 ASC trucks (3 x \$500/mth), 1 box truck (\$150/day x 10)	\$4,500.00	\$7,250.00
SUPPLIES (1 scale \$75, 6 pruners \$15)		\$165.00	\$1,177.00	gloves, boxes, etc.	\$250.00	\$1,427.00
EQUIPMENT				wheelbarrows, crates, shears etc.	\$350.00	\$350.00
STAFF COSTS (\$875 consultant, \$1750 15% Site Super.)		\$2,625.00	\$4,929.00	\$780 10% Urban Greening Coordinator	\$780.00	\$5,709.00
OTHER (6 alpha beepers @ \$17/month x 3 months)		\$306.00	\$720.00	FOR 12 WKS: rent \$600, phone/fax \$300, copier/computer \$225	\$1,125.00	\$1,845.00
TOTAL	\$15,665.90		\$10,201.00		\$7,300.00	\$33,166.90
EDUCATION AWARDS (6 @ \$1000)	\$6,000.00	TO BE HELD BY CORPORATION--NOT PART OF BUDGET				\$6,000.00

* =PLEASE SEE ATTACHED REVISED BUDGET NARRATIVE

AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning - Actual Spending

Budget Narrative

Basic Member

We are requesting five Basic Members @ \$2241.60 each for a total of \$11,208.

Team Leader

We are requesting one Team Leader @ \$3468.40.

FICA

We are requesting that the Corporation cover FICA costs of \$857.41 (\$11,208 x .0765).

Workers Comp

We are requesting \$132.09 (our agency rate is .009).

Uniforms

In addition to the shirts provided by the Corporation we will be supplying each Summer of Gleaning participant one of our tee shirts (\$7.50 each). **ASC provided this match.**

Member Training

We are requesting that the Corporation pay 5 full days of orientation and training @ \$125 per day - this will include introduction to and meetings with all project partners. We will also be providing a one day orientation to the Albany Service Corps valued at \$250. **ASC matched this cost of \$625.**

Transportation

Since we will be gleaning from a six county area, there will be extensive mileage accumulated on personal vehicles. Six members traveling an average of 300 miles per week for 12 weeks @ .30/mile equals \$6480. Our match will be the use of two Albany Service Corps pick-up trucks, valued at \$500 per month, and one larger City of Albany owned box truck, as necessary, for ten days over the course of this project, valued @ \$150 per day. **The team ended up traveling in the ASC pick-up trucks most of the time. 6,500 miles were put on the truck @**

.30/ml. and \$800 in repairs were made, for a total transportation spending of \$2,750.

Supplies

We are requesting funds to pay for one scale (\$75) and six pairs of pruning shears for harvesting (\$15 each). We will be providing gloves, boxes and one of our own scales for a total value of \$250. **We spent much more than expected on supplies. We had extra costs of: a team trip to Hartford Co. FSA, paper for the newsletter, gleaning and cleaning supplies, garbage cans, baskets, boxes, Co-op rental, Pictures and Film.**

Equipment

We will be providing other necessary materials, including wheelbarrows, crates, tape, etc., valued at \$350. **ASC made this match.**

Staff Costs

We are requesting 14 half days of program consultation/supervision from the Capital Gleaning Network Coordinator @ \$125 per day for a total of \$875. We are also requesting that the Corporation pay 15% of the Site Supervisor's salary and fringe, at \$125 per week times 14 weeks, for a total of \$1750. Our match is 10% of the Corps' Urban Greening Coordinator's time devoted to this project (\$65 per week times 12 weeks for a total of \$780). **Because three of our members left we had unexpected staff costs. One of our ASC AmeriCorps members, Carrie Gordon was assigned full-time to the project at a cost of \$2,304 for total staff costs of \$4,929.00.**

Other

We are requesting that the Corporation pay for mobile communication equipment (6 alpha beepers @ \$17 per month x three months for a total of \$306). Our match includes rent @ \$200 per month (\$600), phone and fax @ \$100 per month (\$300) and copier/computer costs @ \$75 per month (\$675). **The ASC did not provide beepers for the team members, but we did incur extra phone, fax, computer, copier, and postage costs for a total cost of \$720.**

Education Award

We are requesting six education awards @ \$1000 each, for a total of \$6000. **Three of our members have/will qualify by 9/25 for education awards.**

Team Albany

Progress Report

August 2, 1996

Vol. 2

Last week was a sad one for the Gleaning Team. Two of our members, Carole Flood and Esther Behling, resigned. It was unfortunate for the team but we wish them good luck.

Otherwise the week was quite productive. The Team met with Tom Della Rocco on Monday morning and brought him ten barrels of compostable material from previous gleaning. We were able to compost this material at the Cornell Cooperative Extension Compost Demonstration Site. We now bring our vegetable waste to the City of Albany Compost Facility.

On Tuesday and Thursday the team travelled to the Menands Market. The team was joined by the Albany Service Corps Yale University Summer Intern, John Cook. The team harvested red leaf lettuce, celery, baking potatoes, cherry tomatoes, sugar peas, basil, yellow squash, watermelons, mushrooms, eggplant, apples, plums and cantelopes.

Wednesday was the most important day so far of our still young project. In our grant the team expected to glean 20,000 pounds over the duration of the 12 week project. On Wednesday, less than six weeks into the project, the team surpassed that mark! This was at Roxbury Farm where the team gleaned cucumbers and garlic, all organically grown. Thank you Jean Paul Courtens!

On Friday the team delivered many of our 7,925 lbs of produce to food pantries across the Capital Region. Thanks to the Honest Weight Food Co-Op, the team has been able to store its food in the walk in cooler at their old Co-op site on Quail Street. Before having access to the walk in, the team was forced to distribute all produce immediately. Now,

if more gleaning arises, the team can store the food and concentrate on the gleaning at hand.

Pantries served this week were:

Albany County

St. Josephs
Trinity Institution
Salvation Army (Albany)
City Mission
Arbor Hill Community Center
Albany United Methodist Society
Equinox

Schenectady County

SICM
Salvation Army
Wildwood Programs
Carver Community Center
New Hope Gospel
Jewish Community Center

Renselaer County

Unity House Street Ministry Food Pantry
St. Joseph's Food Pantry
Pahl Transitional Services
Pahl House

Total Amount Of Gleaned Vegetables

Cucumbers-300 lbs Roxbury Farm

Garlic 10 lbs Roxbury Farm

Menands Market Donations

Tuesday- 5295 lbs

Thursday-2320 lbs

Total for this week: 7,925 lbs

Grand Total: 22,604 lbs. through 8/2/96

(Surpassed 100% of goal weight after 5 weeks)

Volunteers/ Sustainability

Zahirah Washington is our Volunteer Coordinator. She has recently focused on Church groups and has signed up sixteen groups for future gleaning.

Weekly Report

Harvest for the Hungry Garden

The team brought hay to the garden for mulching and also brought compostable material for the compost heap. The team expects to be harvesting some vegetables by next week for distribution to local emergency food sites.

Infrastructure and Development

The team distributed over two hundred copies of our first newsletter. Copies were sent to the Mayor's office, the Governor's office, the USDA in Washington, D.C., the local Summer of Gleaning project partners, volunteer organizations throughout the Capital District, and food pantries, soup kitchens and emergency shelters in the Capital Region. The team is now compiling material in anticipation of our second newsletter, due out by mid- August.

Conclusion

The team is ecstatic to surpass the goal of 20,000 pounds. The team is also saddened to lose two of its members. However neither of these factors will hinder our progress. The team intends to continue its work with farmers and the Menands Market, and hopes to concentrate on volunteer generation. In preparation for project sustainability beyond AmeriCorps, we are working closely with project consultant Tracy Frisch from the Capital Gleaning Network. The team eagerly awaits the next few weeks and is especially excited for the National Week of Gleaning, August 19-25, to promote what we are accomplishing here in Albany.

Team Albany

Progress Report

August 9, 1996

Vol. 3

As always, we began Monday morning with our team meeting. The main topic of the meeting was gathering information and preparing for our afternoon meeting with Paul Winkeller, Albany Service Corps Director and Tracy Frisch, our sustainability consultant. DJ and Torry ran an early morning errand - they delivered compostable material to the City Compost Facility and cucumbers to the Cohoes Community Action building. After our team meeting we met with Gail Anderson, Produce Manager at the Honest Weight Food Co-op to generate more farmer contacts. We also washed and prepared the garlic we gleaned last week for drying and delivery next week.

On Tuesday the team travelled to the Harvest to the Hungry Garden to weed and water in the morning. In the afternoon we went to the Menands Market and picked up peppers, lettuce, grapes, and tomatoes. We sorted, washed and delivered this produce by the end of the day.

Wednesday morning we delivered produce to some of our Schenectady food pantries. At noon we met with our project partners to discuss our progress and ways we can improve our work. This meeting was very productive and the project partners formed their own sustainability working group which we see as a positive step in making certain the project continues after September. In the afternoon we found out about an opportunity to visit an AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning project in Windsor, Connecticut and we firmed up plans for a visit on Tuesday, August 13 and Wednesday, August 14th to glean peaches--we're excited about this trip!

The Stanton's Farm in Feura Bush was our destination on Thursday. We gleaned corn and made

plans for volunteers to return to the farm Friday and Saturday to pick more corn. In the afternoon we went to the Menands Market and gleaned watermelons, cantalopes, and leeks which we immediately sorted and delivered. This gave us time to return to the old co-op building to pick up carrots and beans we'd gleaned at the Harvest for the Hungry Garden the night before with volunteers from St. John the Baptist Church. These were also delivered.

Friday was a little disappointing because the rain kept Torry, Zahirah and the volunteers from the United Methodist Church from gleanng.

Pantries served this week were:

Albany County

St. Joseph's
Trinity Institution
Salvation Army (Albany)
City Mission
Arbor Hill Community Center
Lincoln Park Pool
Cohoes Community Action (Alb/Renss. Co???)

Schenectady County

SICM
Salvation Army
Wildwood Programs
Carver Community Center

Rensselaer County

Unity House Street Ministry Food Pantry
Troy Summer Youth Program

Total Amount Of Gleaned Vegetables

Corn-1300 lbs from Stanton's Farm

**Carrots-40 lbs (Harvest for the
Beans-60 lbs Hungry Garden)**

Menands Market Donations

Tuesday- 1703 lbs

Thursday- 1740 lbs

Total for this week: 4843 lbs

Grand Total: 27,447 lbs. through 8/9/96

(Surpassed 100% of goal weight after 5 wks.)

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Weekly Report

Volunteers/ Sustainability

Zahirah Washington is our Volunteer Coordinator. She has recently focused on Church groups and has signed up sixteen groups for future gleaning. This week we had three groups of volunteers. Wednesday evening 14 volunteers from St. John the Baptist Church in Scotia helped pick at the Harvest for the Hungry Garden. Friday, because of the rain, The Albany United Methodist Church volunteers were cancelled. On Saturday, Stanton's Farm in Feura Bush was host to 13 volunteers; 10 from St. John the Evangelist Church in Schnectady, 2 volunteers from the Albany Service Corps and 1 from the Capital Gleaning Network.

Harvest for the Hungry Garden

Tuesday morning the team weeded and watered the garden. The team harvested carrots and beans with volunteers Wednesday evening. These were delivered by the team on Thursday afternoon to the Arbor Hill Community Center.

Infrastructure and Development

The team distributed leftover copies of our first newsletter. We also prepared for a display at the Altamont Fair next week. We have a photo display and literature to hand out to fair goers. We anticipate attracting new volunteers and additional area farms to glean!

Community Gardens

The most recent issue of Cultivating Community, newsletter of the Albany Community Gardens Program, was printed and circulated to the three hundred families participating in the program. It contained an article by Gleaning Team Member Torry Reyes seeking gleaning volunteers for this summer and beyond. A similar piece has been sent to Capital District Community Gardens, for distribution to an even larger mailing list.

Food Security Proposal

During our meeting with the Project Partners this week we also had an extensive discussion about sustainability while reviewing the new RFP from the Department of Agriculture. It was agreed that all the pieces for an exciting project were "in place" here in the Capital District but there was great concern expressed about getting a high quality proposal developed and submitted by the August 23rd deadline.

Conclusion

We are still saddened by the loss of several team members. However, the staff at the Albany Service has assigned AmeriCorps Member Carrie Gordon to our project, through its completion, and we have also been offered the opportunity to identify and interview one other member of the Albany Service Corps to work with us. Despite our reduced numbers, we have no doubt we will easily surpass our goals for this project.

Team Albany

Progress Report

August 16, 1996

Vol. 4

Monday morning we went out to deliver the sweet corn we had picked at the Stanton's on Saturday. We also delivered canteloupes and tomatoes. In the afternoon, Zahirah and DJ picked one thousand more pounds of corn. Torry was absent this week because his grandfather died and he travelled to Puerto Rico to bury him. Carrie wrote our weekly report and finished plans for Tuesday's trip to Hartford.

On Tuesday the team travelled to the Hartford County FSA office to work with another summer of Gleaning group. We got up early for the drive and when we arrived we picked thousands of peaches in the rain. Despite the bad weather we had a lot of fun with the Hartford team. We camped overnight at Hammonasset State Park and in the morning we headed for Holcomb Community farm, a CSA project which is part of the Hartford Food System. We learned all about their program to provide reduced shares to charitable organizations that serve low income people in Hartford. The trip was very useful for the generation of ideas for continued hunger fighting activities in our area and it was also nice to see how our project compares to another AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning Project.

Upon returning to Albany, the Stanton's Farm in Feura Bush was our destination on Thursday. We gleaned corn and made plans for volunteers to return to the farm Saturday to pick more corn. Five volunteers from the Albany Service Corps accompanied us this day.

Friday morning two more volunteers from the Service Corps delivered produce with DJ. 1600 pounds of corn went to Albany pantries and shelters.

Friday afternoon DJ and Carrie went to Stephenstown to visit Larry Eckhardt's Farm where they picked 750 more pounds of sweet corn. Thursday and Friday nights, Carrie and DJ went to the Altamont Fair to publicize our AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning Project. Several people stopped by the vegetable tent to look at our display and ask questions. Many thanks to Tom Della Rocco from Albany County FSA for giving us this opportunity.

On Saturday morning seven individual volunteers went with DJ and Carrie out to the Stanton's and picked another 1500 pounds of corn in just a morning!

Pantries served this week were:

Albany County

St. Joseph's
Trinity Institution
Salvation Army (Albany)
City Mission
Arbor Hill Community Center
Cohoes Community Action

Schenectady County

no drop offs this week

Rensselaer County

Unity House Street Ministry Food Pantry

Total Amount Of Gleaned Vegetables

Corn-4200 lbs from Stanton's Farm

Peaches-1288 lbs from Hartford

Menands Market Donations

Total for this week: 5488 lbs

Grand Total: 32,935 lbs. thru 8/17/96

(Surpassed 100% of goal weight after 5 wks.)

Volunteers/ Sustainability

Zahirah Washington is our Volunteer Coordinator. She has been focusing on religious organizations and has contacted over a hundred groups with positive responses from a third of them contacted. Zahirah has been sending out

Volunteers/ Sustainability

Zahirah Washington is our Volunteer Coordinator. She has recently focused on Church groups and has signed up sixteen groups for future gleaning. This week we had three groups of volunteers. Wednesday evening 14 volunteers from St. John the Baptist Church in Scotia helped pick at the Harvest for the Hungry Garden. Friday, because of the rain, The Albany Untied Methodist Church volunteers were cancelled. On Saturday, Stanton's Farm in Feura Bush was host to 13 volunteers; 10 from St. John the Evangelist Church in Schnectady, 2 volunteers from the Albany Service Corps and 1 from the Capital Gleaning Network.

Harvest for the Hungry Garden

Tuesday morning the team weeded and watered the garden. The team harvested carrots and beans with volunteers Wednesday evening. These were delivered by the team on Thursday afternoon to the Arbor Hill Community Center.

Infrastructure and Development

The team distributed leftover copies of our first newsletter. We also prepared for a display at the Altamont Fair next week. We have a photo display and literature to hand out to fair goers. We anticipate attracting new volunteers and additional area farms to glean!

Community Gardens

The most recent issue of Cultivating Community, newsletter of the Albany Community Gardens Program, was printed and circulated to the three hundred families participating in the program. It contained an article by Gleaning Team Member Torry Reyes seeking gleaning volunteers for this summer and beyond. A similar piece has been sent to Capital District Community Gardens, for distribution to an even larger mailing list.

Food Security Proposal

During our meeting with the Project Partners this week we also had an extensive discussion about sustainability while reviewing the new RFP from the Department of Agriculture. It was agreed that all the pieces for an exciting project were "in place" here in the Capital District but there was great concern expressed about getting a high quality proposal developed and submitted by the August 23rd deadline.

Conclusion

We are still saddened by the loss of several team members. However, the staff at the Albany Service has assigned AmeriCorps Member Carrie Gordon to our project, through its completion, and we have also been offered the opportunity to identify and interview one other member of the Albany Service Corps to work with us. Despite our reduced numbers, we have no doubt we will easily surpass our goals for this project.

Team Albany

Progress Report

August 23, 1996

Vol. 5

NATIONAL WEEK OF FOOD RECOVERY

Monday morning we went out to deliver the sweet corn we had picked at the Stanton's on Saturday. Monday evening we went to Robert Whipple's farm and picked corn with volunteers from St. John the Baptist Church, the Albany Service Corps, Niskayuna Cub Scout Pack 37, and the Gleaning Network. A reporter came from the Altamont Enterprise.

On Tuesday the team went to Larry Eckhardt's farm to pick corn. We were joined by Frank Bender and his daughter Sarah, as well as Carrie Gordon's brother Nathanael. A reporter from the Troy Record came, and a front page article appeared on Wednesday. That afternoon the team delivered the corn to Unity House and various emergency feeding sites in Albany.

Wednesday the team went out to the Barber's farm in Schoharie County and picked zucchini, tomatoes, cucumbers and watermelons. We were joined by a 4H group from Westerlo and Tom Della Rocco with his family. Reporters came from a local paper in Schoharie and the Schenectady Gazette. In the evening the team went out to the Harvest for the Hungry Garden in Albany with volunteers from the Capital Gleaning Network and the Albany Service Corps.

Thursday was a very busy day for the team. This was their big media event for the National Week of Food Recovery. The team was joined by Joel Berg, Director of USDA AmeriCorps program; Congressman Mike McNulty; Chuck Shoudy, Commissioner Department of Human Resources; Linda Cohen, Executive Director of NYS Corps Collaboration; Paul Winkeller, Director of Albany Service Corps; Tom Gallagher Albany County Cornell Cooperative

Extension, and project partners Mark Quandt Executive Director of NENY Regional Food Bank; Bill Zietlow of the Honest Weight Food Co-Op; Tom Della Rocco, Albany County FSA; and Frank Bender, Rensselaer County FSA. Reporters from Channel 6 news and the Times Union newspaper came to cover the event. After all of the morning excitement the team went to the Menands Market where we were given cauliflower and watermelons. Later that afternoon we delivered food.

On Friday, the team delivered produce in Schenectady. We visited Schenectady Inner City Ministry, Schenectady Salvation Army, and the Carver Community Center. The walk-in cooler was bare for the first time in 10 days, and that afternoon we cleaned up the Co-Op.

Pantries served this week were:

Albany County

St. Joseph's
Hope House
Salvation Army (Albany)
City Mission
St. John's
Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless
Marillac Family Shelter
Cohoes Community Action
Trinity Institution

Schenectady County

Schenectady Inner City Ministry
Salvation Army (Schenectady)
Carver Community Center

Rensselaer County

Unity House Street Ministry Food Pantry

Total Amount Of Gleaned Vegetables

Corn-3600 lbs at Whipples's

Corn-2500 lbs at Eckhardt's

**Tomatoes-265 lbs, Watermelon-1160 lbs,
Zucchini -170 lbs, Cucumbers-845 lbs at
Barber's**

**Tomatoes and Cabbage- 1033 lbs at
Orshan's**

Weekly Report

Menands Market Donations

Cauliflower-1600 lbs

Watermelon-320 lbs

Total for this week: 11,493 lbs

Grand Total: 44,428 lbs. thru 8/23/96

(Surpassed 100% of goal weight after 5 wks.)

Volunteers/ Sustainability

Zahirah Washington, our volunteer coordinator, called up religious organization this week and will have information posted in their bulletins. Zahirah also mentioned volunteering possibilities in her interview with the Times Union. The team had volunteers on Saturday, Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. We had eight individual volunteers on Saturday that we picked corn with at the Stanton's Farm. On Monday there were volunteers from St. John the Baptist church of Scotia joined by Niskayuna Cub scouts Pack 37 and a member from the Gleaning Network picking corn at Robert Whipple's farm. Tuesday the team had volunteers from the Capital Gleaning Network and the Albany Service Corps working in the Harvest for the Hungry Garden. Wednesday we had a group of children from the 4H group in Westerlo and Tom Della Rocco with his family picking zucchini and cucumbers .

Public Relations

This week being the National Week of Food Recovery we tried to get the attention of as many newspapers and News stations as possible. Press releases were sent to the three major news stations in the area as well as the three major newspapers. Press releases were also sent out to the local papers in the towns we gleaned in throughout the week. Reporters came from Channel 6 News, the Times Union, the Troy Record, the Schnectady Gazette, the Altamont Enterprise, and a local Schoharie newspaper. The Press Release highlighted the major events for the week. We are very proud of the tremendous amount of media exposure we recieved during this important week.

Harvest for the Hungry

The team went out to the garden with three volunteers from the Gleaning Network along with a volunteer from the Albany Service Corps. They weeded and mulched the garden in vital areas where weeds were choking the plants. A reporter from Channel 6 News came to see the garden and interviewed a member from the team, the Service Corps, and Hunger Action Network of New York State.

Conclusion

We are very pleased with the overall success of our project during the National Week of Food Recovery. During this week we had incredible press coverage as well as doubling our produce weight goal! Our hopes for the rest of the summer are just as high, although we are preparing for the loss of Zahirah at the end of next week, when she completes her hours here and returns to Vassar College.

Team Albany

Progress Report

August 23³⁰ and September 6, 1996 Vols. 6&7

On Monday the 26th the team wrote our weekly report and made arrangements for gleaning the rest of the week. Tuesday we travelled to Roxbury Biodynamic Farm to pick canteloupes, tomatoes, chard and beets. We were fortunate to have DJ's brother, Michael, work with us this whole day. We'd like to take this opportunity to give a big thank you to John Paul Courtens and Betsy Cashen of Roxbury Farm for letting the team return several times this summer and for being such big supporters of our project.

On Wednesday we were off to Orshan's Farm in Colonie to pick cabbage. By the end of the day we had 2,795 lbs of cabbage! Needless to say, on Thursday we did a lot of delivering. In fact, the chore of delivery carried us through Friday morning. On Friday afternoon, Tom Della Rocco and Paul Winkeller took the team out for lunch. Friday was Zahirah's last day and we also took her to Ben and Jerry's for ice cream to say good-bye. We already miss Zahirah, but we wish her well at Vassar College this year, where we hope she'll spend part of her spare time gleaning!

September 2nd was Labor Day so the team's week began on Tuesday. This whole week Torry was highly involved in writing the second and final edition of our newsletter. Tuesday, DJ and Carrie occupied themselves by making the long trek to Ancram to pick 1100 lbs of organic potatoes from Thompson-Finch Farm.

On Wednesday, DJ and Carrie delivered potatoes and cabbage. Thursday we picked up cucumbers at the Menands Market and then delivered cucumbers, cabbage and potatoes. Friday we picked 825 pounds of tomatoes from Altamont Orchards.

Pantries served these weeks were:

Albany County

St. Joseph's (8/29, 8/30, 9/3, 9/5)
Salvation Army (Albany), (8/29, 9/5)
City Mission (8/29)
St. John's (8/27, 8/29, 9/3)
Interfaith Partnership (8/29)
Marillac Family Shelter (8/27, 8/30, 9/5)
Trinity Institution (8/29, 9/3)
Mercy House (8/29)
St. Vincent de Paul (8/27, 9/5)

Schenectady County

Schenectady Inner City Ministry (8/27, 8/30)
Salvation Army (Schenectady), (8/27)
Carver Community Center (8/27, 8/30)
New Hope Gospel (8/27)
Jewish Community Center (8/30)

Rensselaer County

no deliveries during the past two weeks

Total Amount Of Gleaned Vegetables

Cantaloupe-50 lbs, Chard-85 lbs, Tomatoes-375 lbs, and Beets- 850 lbs at Roxbury Potatoes -1100 lbs from Thompson-Finch Farm

Cabbage- 2795 lbs at Orshan's Tomatoes-825 lbs at Altamont Orchards
Menands Market Donations
Cucumbers- 160 lbs

Total for these weeks: 6,240 lbs

Grand Total: 50, 668 lbs. thru 9/6/96

(Surpassed 100% of goal weight after 5 wks.)

Volunteers/ Sustainability

Zahirah Washington, our volunteer coordinator, before leaving on Friday called all our September volunteers for reminder calls. Our volunteers for this week cancelled because they could not get enough people together. We have scheduled all our September volunteers for

Weekly Report

Saturdays. Our hope is that by doing this we will ease the transition of the Summer of Gleaning team as volunteer managers to the Capital Gleaning Network, the organization which will be taking the lead in gleaning activities after September 30th.

Harvest for the Hungry

During Zahirah's last week, Torry and Zahirah worked Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings in the garden. They did not harvest at the garden, but worked to control the weeds and make the garden easily accessible to the harvesters. thus far, the garden has contributed 1400 pounds of produce to the local emergency food system.

Conclusion

We have really enjoyed our gleaning project and as it draws to a close, we are working hard to find a way to continue anti-hunger work in Albany. The team really feels that this work is vital and could easily be a year round activity.



Gerald D. Jennings

*Mayor
City of Albany*

Charles H. Shoudy

*Commissioner
Department of
Human Resources*

Paul S. Winkeller

*Executive Director
Albany Service Corps*

TO: All farmers, organization partners and emergency feeding sites involved in the USDA AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning Project

FROM: The Gleaning Team (Carrie Gordon, Victorio Reyes, D.J. Stacey, Zahirah Washington, Paul Winkeller)

DATE: September 20, 1996

SUBJECT: Final Report

Please forgive the rather bureaucratic form of this memo but we have a lot of project partners to communicate with! As part of our agreement in taking on this important project this past summer, we agreed to produce a high quality and thorough final report.

In addition to lots of numbers, reports, newsletters and press clips we want to include as many testimonials from our partners as possible. In your own words, would you please send us a note in the enclosed, self-addressed stamped envelope, describing your feelings about being involved in this project - why it was important, what the gleaning program meant to you, whether this is important work for a youth corps like the Albany Service Corps to continue, etc.

Thanks. Please also take a moment to also fill out the enclosed USDA AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning Evaluation Form and send it along with your personal testimonial. Getting feedback from our project partners is a big part of our efforts to continually improve what we do around here!

As part of ServAlbany Day 1996 (October 19th), the Albany Service Corps is hoping to set up some gleaning events for volunteers. If you know of any opportunities please contact Kimberly Sullivan, ServAlbany Day Coordinator, at 434-2677. A ServAlbany Day flyer is attached for your information and review.

Finally, the Albany Service Corps will be working closely with the Capital Gleaning Network in future gleaning activities. And we are trying very hard to find the funding to support a year round Capital District Anti-Hunger Team, so you may not have the last from us!

Thank you very much for your help and support. This has been a great project for us all to have been involved with. If you would like a copy of the final report submitted to USDA, please give Carrie Gordon a call.



AmeriCorps/USDA Gleaning Project Partner Evaluation Form

Name of the Project: Albany AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning

Name of the Evaluator: _____

Name of the Agency: _____

1. How did you work with the Gleaners? (Please circle one)

I was an organizational partner

I work at a pantry/shelter that distributed gleaned produce

I am a farmer at a farm where the team gleaned

2. How would you characterize the quality (high, acceptable, low) of the Gleaners work?

3. Do you think AmeriCorps volunteers valued their service? If not, why not?

5. To your knowledge, did the team use proper safety practices and equipment, and did they care for produce properly?

6. Overall, was the project worth the effort? Would you want to work with another AmeriCorps/USDA Summer of Gleaning project?

7. What could be done to improve this project if repeated in the future?

-Thank You-



PROBLEM: HUNGER

21,500 children in the Capital Region go hungry each day.

NEEDED: Able Bodied Volunteers to Help Harvest Surplus Fruits and Vegetables

20% of all food produced in the U.S. is lost or wasted each year. This could adequately feed 49 million people.

SOLUTION: GLEANING

AmeriCorps, a national service program has launched the "summer of gleaning project". Our aim is to harvest wasted food and distribute this food to pantries and shelters in the capital region to help combat the problem of hunger in the capital district.

Act now!

Contact:

David-John Stacey or Mickie Bakken

AMERICORPS

Summer of Gleaning

88 North Lake

Albany, NY 12206

Call 434-2677



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David-John Stacey or Mickie Bakken

AMERICORPS

Summer of Gleaning

88 North Lake

Albany, NY 12206

Call 434-2677

ZUCCHINI & YELLOW SQUASH

Also called summer squash. A very versatile vegetable.

STORAGE:

Keep summer squash in the refrigerator in a plastic bag.

PREPARATION:

Wash the squash and cut off the ends. Cut out any bad spots.

SERVING:

Zucchini has a mild flavor, and tastes good uncooked.

Slice thinly and serve with oil and vinegar as a fresh salad. OR, add slices or grated zucchini to a lettuce salad.

Add to potato, tuna or chicken salad.

Slice and put on sandwiches as you would tomato or onion.

COOKING:

Zucchini and Yellow Squash both cook quickly and can be prepared in many different ways.

Slice into half circles and saute' in a small amount of oil or water. Saute' with any of the following vegetables:

Onions

Bell Peppers

Garlic

Broccoli

Carrots

Tomatoes

Add salt and pepper or lemon juice.

Add zucchini to spaghetti sauce and heat until soft.

Zucchini Lasagne: Layer zucchini slices, cheese and tomato sauce in a large pan or baking dish. Bake in oven at 350 for 30 minutes.

CUCUMBERS

A cool vegetable to enjoy year-round.

STORAGE:

Keep in the refrigerator in a plastic bag. Use cut cucumbers quickly.

PREPARATION:

Wash the cucumber and cut off any bad parts. Some people like to peel the skin off with a vegetable peeler or knife.

SERVING:

Serve cucumbers sliced on a lettuce salad.

Marinated Cucumber Salad: Combine thinly sliced cucumbers, vegetable oil, white or cider vinegar, salt and pepper. Lemon juice can also be added. Chill in the refrigerator for at least an hour.

Chilled Cucumber Soup: Combine cucumbers, yogurt and salt and pepper. Also add lemon juice, dill weed and/or onion if you have it. This soup is easiest to make by combining everything in a blender or food processor. OR, you can simply chop the cucumbers (peel them first) and mash into the yogurt with a glass or jar. Chill at least one hour.

Put slices on sandwiches with tuna or chicken salad, or cream cheese.

Veggie Dip: Combine finely chopped cucumber with cottage cheese for a dip with crackers and fresh cut-up vegetables such as carrot strips, celery sticks, zucchini rounds, broccoli, etc.

CORN

Farm fresh corn is one of the most delicious summer treats.

STORAGE:

Keep corn refrigerated until ready to use. Corn tastes delicious when eaten very fresh.

PREPARATION:

Shuck the corn (remove all outer leaves and the "hair"). Break off bottom stem.

Boil enough water to cover all the cobs.

Cobs of corn can be broken in half if your pot is too small.

When water comes to a full boil, add the ears of corn. When water returns to a boil, reduce heat and boil gently for 3-5 minutes, or until corn is yellow.

SERVING:

Fresh corn often tastes great without anything on it.

Other ways to serve it :

with butter/margarine and salt

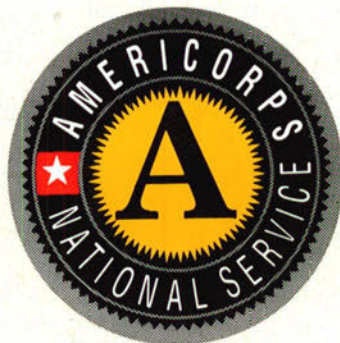
with olive oil and chopped garlic

OUTDOOR GRILL:

Corn can be cooked on an outdoor grill. Don't shuck the corn, and soak the entire ear in water for several minutes. Put corn on grill. Grill for 15 to 20 minutes. Check the corn by pulling back the leaves. Peel leaves when ready to eat.

As part of "National Food Recovery Week", the Gleaning Team will be gleaning vegetables at David Oreshan's Farm on Rt. 9 in Colonie at 9:30 AM. Since you have been a vital component in making this project a success, we would like you to join us on Thursday, along with National Director of AmeriCorps for USDA, Joel Berg; Congressman Michael McNulty; and USDA/FSA State Executive Director, Marc Smith.

If you have any questions about Thursdays events (or need better directions) please call us at 434-2677. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your tremendous support and we hope to see you on Thursday.



Receipt of Produce Items

Albany Service Corps 88 N. Lake Ave, Albany, NY 12206 (518) 434-2677

Received from: _____

Type	Amount
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1.	_____
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2.	_____
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3.	_____
----	-------

4.	_____
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Received by:	Date
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Receipt of Produce Items

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1.	_____
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1.	_____
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2.	_____
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3.	_____
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4.	_____
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Received by:	Date
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DAILY ACCOMPLISHMENT FORM

TEAM MEMBER	ACCOMPLISHMENTS
CAROLE FLOOD TEAM LEADER	
MIKKI BAKKEN FARMER OUTREACH	
ESTER BEHLING FOOD PANTRIES	
TORRY REYES INFRASTRUCTURE	
D. J. STACEY FARMER OUTREACH	
ZAHIRAH WASHINGTON HARVEST FOR THE HUN	
COMMENTS	

Date:

Prepared By:

AmeriCorps volunteers find food for needy any way they can

By Andrew Schotz

GALLUPVILLE — Victorio Reyes and Brian Pearce were hoisting barrels of corn into a pickup truck bed that was filling quickly. The end seemed near.

But Zahirah Washington knew the pickers could do better. She kept raising the goal for the day, and the pickers obliged.

With help from about 20 volunteer gleaners from Schenectady, AmeriCorps picked up an estimated 3,600 pounds of corn from a field in Gallupville Monday afternoon.

The landowner, Robert Whipple of Berne, donated part of his crop at the request of Tom Della Rocco, the county executive director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency, which runs the community service program.

After stuffing the truck, Reyes, Pearce, and Washington drove it to the Honest Weight Food Co-op in Albany, where freezers keep the harvest fresh.

Over the next few days, the food came back out. It was brought to food pantries in the Capital District for distribution to the needy.

Reyes and Washington, both Albany residents, are in the 12-week AmeriCorps program for different reasons.

"I want to go into the Peace Corps," said Washington, an 18-year-old sophomore at Vassar College. "Someplace with a rainforest, maybe Brazil." She plans to go into environmental law.

Reyes, 22, just earned a degree in English from Adelphi University. He'll probably go to graduate school in a year, but will first spend six months in Puerto Rico visiting and learn-



The Enterprise — Andrew Schotz

Ears to you: Kevin Hemberger, 10 (left), and Jason Eckenberger, 11, were among about 20 volunteers from Schenectady county to help members of the AmeriCorps program glean corn in Robert Whipple's field in Gallupville Monday. The corn was distributed to food pantries.

ing more about his family.

"I want to be always giving back to my community," he said. Most food pantries, Reyes said, "are in neighborhoods with poor black and Latino populations. That's where I come from."

Their helpers were mostly from St. John the Baptist Church in Schenectady. Diury Alvarado, who organized the

church effort, said she read about the project in a newspaper. "I called the organization and said I wanted to help."

This is the second time St. John the Baptist helped glean; the first time was in the city garden in Albany. Alvarado said she will plan another trip when religious school begins, to help pick fall produce.

As she spoke, members of the

'Most food pantries are in neighborhoods with poor black and Latino populations. That's where I come from.'

group ducked in and out of corn rows looking for ears. Many were young kids.

Karla Guereri was assisted by her five-year-old daughter, Justine Lyons. Elizabeth, 6, and Will, 3, helped their mother, Brooke Quandt. Kevin Hemberger, 10, and Jason Eckenberger, 11, split off in another direction. Liz Davis picked, but her two-and-a-half-year-old son, William, mainly played with his toy cars.

AmeriCorps volunteers pick, but they're not picky. They'll take whatever farmers offer.

"We're gleaning food however we come across it," Reyes said. They put out fliers, they printed a newsletter, they went through the phone directory.

Della Rocco called on the network of farmers he has developed. Anne Whipple, Robert's wife, said it was the first time he had participated.

Reyes said his team had gleaned strawberries, cucumbers, garlic, and peas. Other local contributors included Tim and Colleen Stanton in New Scotland, Stu and Jane Lyman in Bethlehem, Ed and Dave Oreshan in Colonie, and Roger Barber in Schoharie.

Yesterday, Bruce Moses of Knox hosted 40 sixth- and eighth-graders from Schenectady for a lesson on glean- ing.

Reyes and Washington, who are getting paid minimum

wage plus a \$1,000 stipend for education, began glean- ing Capital District farms, and the Menands market, on June 26. More than halfway through, their four-person team was well beyond the goal they had set.

"We had hoped to glean 20,000 pounds," Della Rocco said. "After today at Barber's...we'll have double that. The farm community has been very generous."

Service Corps granted funding

By KAREN ROACH
Gazette Reporter

ALBANY — Four local residents will help recover surplus food from around the region to supply food pantries over the next few months as part of a federal program called the Summer of Gleaning.

The program, part of President Clinton's AmeriCorps national service initiative, has awarded the Albany Service Corps a grant of \$22,500 to pay for the four workers for the summer.

The workers will be deployed around a six-county area at farms, restaurants and other institutions to gather extra food that could otherwise go to waste.

In return, the workers will get a weekly stipend of approximately \$170, and if they stick with the program, they will earn a \$1,000 education award at the end of the summer.

Gleaning program aids food pantries

"In these days of dwindling resources, and dwindling commitments from state and federal agencies, we have to be creative," said Mayor Jerry Jennings, in helping to announce the grant. "This is an honor for us to be chosen."

Albany's program was the only one in New York, and one of only 20 around the country to be chosen for grants under the Summer of Gleaning program, according to Paul Winkeller, director of the Albany Service Corps.

The idea of gleaning is based upon the practice in biblical times, where farmers would leave the edges of their fields unharvested so the poor could gather food there.

In the book of Leviticus, God commands Moses to leave the gleanings of the harvest for the "poor and the sojourner."

In more recent times, the practice is catching on across the country and in this area.

The Hunger Action Network of New York, a statewide anti-hunger group, encourages gardeners to plant an extra row of vegetables and donate the proceeds to a food pantry.

Also, the Regional Farm & Food Project, formed this year, serves as a clearinghouse for volunteers interested in helping pick surplus fruits or vegetables, and a contact for farmers who have extra food to give.

Anyone interested in volunteering or learning more about that organization can write for more information to 27 Elm St., Albany, N.Y. 12202.

One of the major problems with the idea of gleaning, is that when a farmer offers a field, volunteers and vehicles must mobilize quickly. The Ameri-

Corps program will provide a steady team of people ready to gather the available food, program leaders said.

Winkeller estimates the team of gleaners could result in another 10 tons of food being distributed to food pantries in the area.

He said the program will help feed the 20,000 low-income people each month who depend on food pantries in Albany, Schenectady, Rensselaer, Schoharie, Greene and Columbia counties.

Marc Smith, the state executive director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency, which is administering the program, said the program will not only help feed the hungry, but will provide a learning experience for the AmeriCorps workers.

"We're pleased to be a part of it," Smith said. "I think we've got a system that can help, and we're looking forward to this."

Fields of plenty



Times Union JAMES GOOLSBY

Americorps workers Zahirah Washington of Albany, Carrie Gordon of East Schodack and David John Stace of Albany, from left, and Victorio Rayes of Albany, right, look over the produce they've harvested for the needy Thursday at the Colonie farm of Ed Oreshan, center. Story on B-7.

Albany, N.Y., Friday, August 23, 1996

TIMES UNION*

B-7

AROUND THE REGION

Food-recovery program bears fruit on Colonie farm

BY CHRIS STURGIS
Staff writer

COLONIE — Tomatoes, cabbages and other vegetables that are good enough to eat but not good enough for Oreshan's farm stand were trucked away Thursday to feed the needy.

The vegetable harvest was part of the National Week of Food Recovery.

The effort was initiated by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman, who said there is too much excess food for distribution to the needy. Locally, the

program is being run by the Americorps program, which in this region is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The four Americorps workers with the Albany Service Corps have collected 40,000 pounds of food so far this summer, twice their goal, said Tom Della Rocco of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its Farm Service Agency's office in Albany County.

In addition to farms, the workers collect produce from restaurants,

wholesalers and community gardens.

Ed Oreshan, who ran the farm and vegetable stand that bears his name for 29 years before passing it on five years ago to his son, David, said Americorps was gathering produce that was too small to sell at the stand. "It's part of the business. It isn't worthwhile to pay help to pick these," he said.

Joel Berg, director of National Service Corps, which runs the Americorps program, said produce really helps food programs.

"The nutritional mix that we get for the food banks is critical," he said.

In an interview Thursday afternoon, Mark Quant, executive director of the Regional Food Bank, underscored Berg's remarks. "More and more, the agencies are appreciating fresh produce and its nutritional value," he said.

In fact, home gardeners who are overwhelmed by their own harvests may wish to call the Regional Food Bank, sort of a distribution warehouse, at 786-3691 to find out who

can use their surplus.

Quant said the fresh vegetables may be served in meals at day care centers and homeless shelters or distributed to food pantries.

Perishable food is harder to handle, but many organizations that feed the hungry will take it because of its nutritional importance, Quant said.

Ed Oreshan received a certificate of appreciation from Rep. Michael McNulty, D-Green Island, for donating an estimated 1,000 pounds of food.

One of the Americorps workers said the program fits right into her future goals. Zahirah Washington, 18, a student at Vassar College, said she hopes to go into the Peace Corps when she graduates and to eventually become an environmental lawyer.

Washington also gets \$1,000 in educational assistance and \$2,000 pay for her work. "I think it will be great preparation because I'm getting to know a lot about nature, growing and the environment," she said.



ASSISTANT TEAM LEADER Joseph Lochridge and Suzanne Lecourt, members of the Albany Service Corps, tend the Harvest for the Hungry garden on the State Office Campus in Albany Monday. Times Union/STEPHEN WEAVER

Community gardeners hope to harvest bounty for hungry

■ Albany Service Corps' gleaning program aims to stock food pantries with fresh produce

BY CAILIN BROWN
Staff writer

Albany

The beating sun prompted an afternoon sprinkling Monday at the Harvest for the Hungry community garden, where food is grown entirely for the poor.

Beside the sprouting carrots, lettuce, kale and beets, government leaders and community-based organizations introduced a gleaning program that is expected to collect surplus food this year for a population increasingly in need of food-pantry help.

The "AmeriCorps Summer of Gleaning" program is coordinated through the Albany Service Corps, which has received a \$20,000 federal grant for the program. The project will link the rural farming community with the urban poor to direct food that might otherwise go to waste.

"These four to six corps members will gather 10 tons of food (for) the emergency food system. That's significant," said Paul Winkler, executive director of the Albany Service Corps. He estimated the corps workers will spend 2,000 hours over 12 weeks creating a system for volunteers to collect food from farmers and gardeners. Once surplus food is collected from six counties, it will be distributed through food pantries and soup kitchens to about 20,000 low-income families in Albany, Troy and Schenectady.

Efforts by assorted local agencies have been fragmented and not sufficiently coordinated, Winkler said.

Behind Winkler, members of the Albany Service Corps and AmeriCorps were busy watering, weeding and thinning the community garden at the State Office Campus where produce is grown for local food pantries and soup kitchens. Albany is one of only 20 sites nationwide to which the U.S. Department of Agriculture has

allocated gleaning-program grant money.

"With one out of nine people on food stamps, the department is finding ways to facilitate partnerships between those who have food and those who don't," said Donna Hines, an anti-hunger coordinator with the USDA and AmeriCorps. She said she would like to see "food rescue" programs become as common as bottle recycling programs.

For Debbie Catozzi, associate director of the Hunger Action Network of New York State, the gleaning program might make possible an idea that has mostly been hit-or-miss.

"We've been working for a long time to try and get a gleaning project growing," she said. Once an infrastructure is built, farmers can get involved, volunteers can be trained and users of gleaned food can be educated about the value of fresh produce, she said.

The coordination effort involves identifying farmers who are willing to give away their surplus, then lining up storage for large quantities of fresh food at pantries that generally have minimal capacity.

Efforts to assist the emergency food system will help groups like the Food Pantries of the Capital District, which has had a hard time collecting donations, according to executive director Dawn Primeau.

She asked 100 local businesses to consider collecting for pantries this spring and received only five responses.

"We rely on the state offices, but many of them are doing drives for their own employees because people are being laid off and displaced," Primeau said. "We're always thinking of new ways to raise food, and gleaning is a traditional, historical way of feeding poor people."

The Focus Interfaith food pantry is receptive to the idea because the pantry usually lacks fresh produce, according to director Tom McPheeters.

"We never seem to be able to get enough fresh produce," McPheeters said. He plans to have pantry staff educated in the uses of fresh produce so that they can pass the knowledge on to pantry clients. "A lot of education needs to be done."



WEDNESDAY
August 21, 1996

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Volunteers David Stacey, left, and Victorio Reyes pick corn at Larry Eckhardt's Kinderhook Creek Farm in Stephentown. The corn was sent to local food pantries. Mike McMahon/The Record

Excess produce harvested for local food pantries

By Steve Nelson

The Record

TROY — A load of freshly-picked corn was delivered yesterday afternoon to the Unity House Street Ministry food pantry program, as part of an effort to provide meals and sustenance to 500 needy families every month.

The corn was harvested from Larry Eckhardt's Kinderhook Creek Farm, in Stephentown, by volunteers from the AmeriCorps Project, a program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Farm Service Agency. The program, since July 1, has gleaned 30,000 pounds of excess produce for 25 food pantries in the Capital District.

Volunteer crews already have collected produce from a Gallupville farm in Sch-

enectady County, and will do so from farms in Schoharie and Colonie before the "National Week of Food Recovery" is over.

Area food pantries welcome the surplus, because they are bracing for an onslaught of hungry people and families expected to be thrown out of the food stamp program when President Clinton signs a major welfare reform bill this week.

"Gleaning is a great addition to the (food pantry) program," said Sonia Frangie, assistant director of the Unity House program, which is a member of the Capital District food pantry program. "It's always a great hope to offer fresh produce. The corn gives us a chance to offer one more item to our food pantry."

See FOOD, A6 ►

Food: Excess harvested for local pantries

► Continued from A1

The Unity House pantry has a big chore — and it's getting bigger all the time. Frangie said during the first six months last year, the pantry served 1,586 families. Over the same period of time this year, the number had climbed to 1,902. And the need will only grow if the worst fears are realized with proposed cutbacks in the food stamp program, she said.

"There's really no way of knowing (the impact of the cutbacks). If the benefits get cut down we're definitely going to see an increase. I just don't think that welfare reform is going to work," Frangie said. "There were a couple of times

The "gleaning" program was an instant hit after just one pilot project, said Joel Berg, national director of AmeriCorps. Hunger is a problem in America that begs for creative, cost-effective solutions, he said.

"Up to one-fifth of all of the food in America gets thrown out. One in 10 Americans is on food stamps. There is always great hunger at the same time there is great waste of food," Berg said. "There's certainly going to be a need for more alternatives, innovative programs like this one to deal with the situation."

Twenty states already participate in the program, which has collected 11 million pounds of



Clare Dellrooc, left, and Christine Sikule were among several children volunteering their time on Wednesday to help pick vegetables for the needy.

They were among some 20 gleaners at the Roger Barber farm in Middleburgh. BRUCE SQUIERS Gazette Photograph

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

Capital Region youths pick over harvested fields for food pantries

By LES HENDRIX
Gazette Reporter

MIDDLEBURGH — Seven-year-old Sarah Araldi got out of cleaning on Wednesday by taking up gleaning.

Sarah and 12 other members of the Seven Mountaineers 4-H Club of Westerlo spent the morning harvesting leftovers from the fields at the Roger Barber farm south of Middleburgh.

"I would just be watching a movie or cleaning my room" if not working with the 4-H club, said Sarah.

The 4-H kids and four college-age members of the federal AmeriCorps volunteer program scavenged about 3,000 pounds of cucumbers, squash and other vegetables, estimated Tom Della Rocco, Albany County director for the federal Farm Service Agency.

The food reached Capital Region food pantries Wednesday night and some may even have been distributed to the needy in time for last night's supper, Della Rocco said.

Farm operator Jim Barber said harvesting crews had been through the fields several times. Getting the last of the edible foods when a field is past its peak is no longer economical, he said.

Wednesday's trip was the first for the 4-H club, and members had mixed thoughts on whether they would glean again.

Sal Spinnato, an 8-year-old who raises chickens and sells the eggs, said he might return.

Sarah's big brother, 8-year-old Gregory Araldi, said he'd glean again. He enjoyed eating watermelon during his visit.

Micah Kuhar, 11, admitted he'd rather do something else, however.

Della Rocco said he's not had any farmers turn him down as he lines up local projects for the national "Summer of Gleaning."

The Farm Service Agency, Albany Service Corps and Capital Gleaning Network are sponsoring one of 20 gleaning operations throughout the nation.

Project volunteers are gleaning fields in seven area counties to help feed about 21,500 needy Capital Region people.

Besides 4-H groups, volunteers have come from St. John the Baptist Church in Schenectady and the Schenectady Jewish Community Center.

If gleaning is an unfamiliar word, don't feel alone. "We had to ask what it was," said Kathy Spinnato, the 4-H project leader.

Over the years, gleaning has taken root in communities across the nation.

The practice has spread to include the gleaning unsold items from supermarkets and restaurants.

Regionally, gleaning got its start in Franklin County six years ago and has now spread to nearly every county in the region, with efforts underway to develop gleaning programs in counties that have not already started one.

Gleaners in Franklin County last year kept about 2½ million pounds of food from ending up in the compost or in the garbage.

The food was distributed to seven northern New York counties, New York City and two regional food banks.

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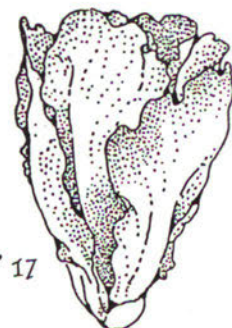
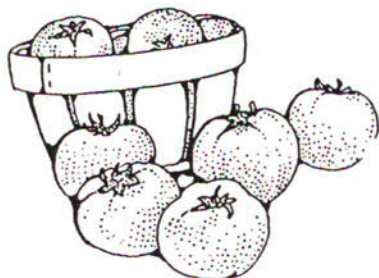


AmeriCorps

"Summer of Gleaning"

Newsletter

June 24 - July 17



GRANT APPROVED!

As of June 1996 the "Summer of Gleaning Project" was launched, co-sponsored by the Farm Service Agency and the Albany Service Corps in cooperation with the Capital Gleaning Network. The Summer of Gleaning is a 12-week AmeriCorps program sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). The project is one of only 20 nationwide, Albany was chosen because of our already strong AmeriCorps experience and extensive work in areas like urban forestry, emergency food, community gardens and gleaning. Twenty percent of all food produced in the U.S. is lost or wasted each year, enough to sufficiently feed 49 million people. The purpose of the "Summer of Gleaning" is to tap into this tremendous source of food in order to feed some of the 21,500 children who go hungry each day in the Capitol Region. To do this, the gleaners solicit help from farmers in a seven-county region: Albany, Schenectady, Rennselaer, Saratoga, Schoharie, Greene, and Columbia. By identifying farmers who have surplus fruits and vegetables the gleaners, with help from volunteers, will be able to harvest tons of edible produce which would otherwise go to waste. This

food will then be distributed to area food pantries and soup kitchens in Rennselaer, Albany and Schenectady Counties, moving the food virtually from the field straight

into the mouths of people who need it. The project participants expect to glean at least 20,000 pounds of produce by September 30th. By doing so the project hopes to make a serious dent in the already staggering local hunger statistics.

ALREADY MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Strawberry season is almost always over by the first of July. However, due to the snow which carried on through May, strawberry season was delayed a few weeks. This was very opportune for the gleaning team. On June 28, the third day on the job, the team travelled to Schaghticoke, N.Y. There, at the River Edge Farm, run by Andy Squire, the team had their first gleaning experience. Along with volunteers from the Hamilton Community Action Agency, the gleaners were able to glean 218 pounds of fresh strawberries. Afterwards Andy Squire offered to give the team some of his insight into the farming business. He spoke candidly about the ups and downs of the business, and gave the gleaners a much needed perspective on the agriculture industry.

On July 1, the search for fresh strawberries brought the gleaning team to Delmar, NY to Lyman Farm, owned and operated by Jane Lyman. The team gleaned 100 pounds of fresh strawberries and

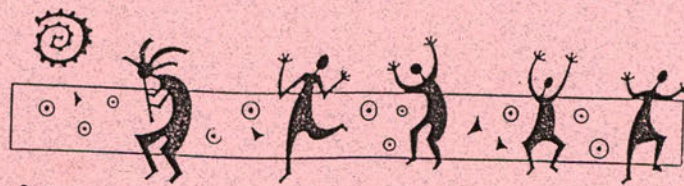


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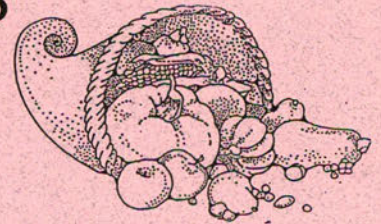
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AmeriCorps

"Summer of Gleaning"



Albany, New York

Newsletter

August Edition

NATIONAL WEEK OF FOOD RECOVERY

A BUSY WEEK

During the week of August 19-23, the Gleaning Team embarked on its most hectic adventure thus far. The National Week of Food Recovery, affectionately referred to as the "Week of Gleaning," was an initiative sponsored by the United States Department of Agriculture, Americorp Program. The team planned a week chock full of events which kept us all very busy and in good shape.

On Monday morning the team kicked the week off by delivering pounds and pounds of sweet corn which they had picked at Tim Stanton's farm in Feura Bush, the previous Saturday. Continuing with the corn theme the team travelled to the farm of Robert Whipple to harvest more sweet corn. The team was joined by 20 volunteers from the St. John the Baptist Church, the Albany Service Corps, and Niskayuna Cub Scout Pack 37. A reporter from the Altamont Enterprise also joined the crew. The team loaded barrels of corn into the back of their truck. Led by Zahirah Washington, the team of volunteers continued to raise their expectations loading more and more corn until the the truck was overflowing with sweet corn. By night's end the team recovered 3,600 pounds of

corn, enough to supply at least 360 backyard barbecues.

On Tuesday the Gleaning Team decided that 3,600 pounds of sweet corn wasn't enough and so they journeyed to Larry Eckhardt's farm to pick yet more corn. It was bring your twelve year old day, and so Carrie Gordon obliged by bringing her brother Nathanael, as did Rensselaer County FSA Agent, Frank Bender who brought his daughter Sarah. The team came away with 2500 pounds of maize.

continued on page 3

CHILDREN OF THE CORN



(Names from left to right: Zahirah Washington, Frank Bender FSA, Nathanael and Carrie Gordon, Sarah Bender, and Victorio Reyes)





AmeriCorps *USA

USDA Summer of Gleaning State Progress Report (CNS Grant No. 95ADFDC047)

1. Check this reporting period: Mid-Term X Final

SECTION I - STATE INFORMATION

2. State: New York

3. Agency: ARS ☐ NRCS ☐ Forest Service ☐ RECD ☐ FSA ☒ FCS ☐

SECTION II - STATE CONTACT INFORMATION:

(Make Corrections if Necessary)

4. Contact Name: Thomas F. Della Rocco
First Middle Last

5. Title: County Executive Director

6. Address: P.O. Box 497, 24 Martin Rd.
street, number, and PO (if applicable)

Voorheesville New York 12186
City State Zip

7. Telephone number: 5 1 8 - 7 6 5 - 3 5 7 0

8. Fax number: 5 1 8 - 7 6 5 - 2 3 0 4

9. E-Mail Address (if any) : N/A

SECTION III - MEMBER DATA:

Attached are sheets concerning AmeriCorps Member data. The first type of Member Data sheet lists each Member, by operating site, for whom the USDA Office of National Service has received at least a Member enrollment form. The sheet will also list the number of slots allotted to that site and the number of enrollment forms received by the Department; you will need to fill in the number of Members actually enrolled. The sheets give the Member's name, social security number, and enrollment status. Please review the data and check for:

- a. Correct spelling of the name;
- b. Accuracy of the Social Security Number;
- c. Service type (F= Full-time member; P= Part-time member);
- d. Program Status (A = Active; C = Completed; E = Ended Service Early)*
- e. Trust Status (A = Earning Award; B = Earned Award; C = Did Not Earn Award; D = On Hold by the Corporation for National Service; E = Under Review).

Alongside each name, give the total number of hours served (includes training time) by the Member this reporting period. Do this even if the Member has terminated during the reporting period. For Members who are on the list but have terminated or had their service type or status changed, just cross out the old status and print the new one alongside it. Make your corrections directly on this sheet and submit it along with the other portions of your progress report.

The second type of Member Data sheets give an Operating Site ID number and the name of the site supervisor but has no Member names listed. That is because the USDA Office of National Service has not received Enrollment forms for **any** members from these sites. Please print the necessary information for each member on the appropriate sheet and submit an Enrollment form to the Department. If a Member began service but terminated, we still need a form for that person --- indicates their status as terminated. Also note whether or not the site sent the enrollment form directly to the Corporation for National Service. It is hoped that by now everyone understands that all forms (except health and child care) should come directly to the USDA Director of National Service and NOT--- repeat NOT --- the Corporation for National Service.

REMEMBER:

- a. ALL members should be listed even though they only served a few days. If an enrollment form was submitted for a Member who then terminates either by officially notifying you or simply by walking away from the program, an End of Term of Service Form MUST be submitted for the Member.
- b. If Members are serving at an operating site and their name does not appear on the list for that site, first check to see if the Member is listed under a different operating site; if not, then an Enrollment Form must be submitted so the person can be enrolled in the program.
- c. List all the hours a Member served during the reporting period regardless if they terminated or if they started in the middle of the period.

7/24/96

OP SITE ID: 9364

STATE: NY

Site Supervisor:

Agency/Org Name:

City:

10. MEMBER DATA:

Tom Della Rocco

USDA - FSA

Albany

PHONE: 816-776-5861

FAX: 8167766902

No. of Members Allocated by USDA: 3

Member Name	SSN	SER STAT	PGM STAT	TRT STAT	HOURS		Total
					1st half	2nd half	
Patricia "Mikki" Bakken		F	A	A	161.75		0
Esther Behling		F	A	A	135.75		
Carole Flood		F	E	C	156.75		
Victorio Reyes		F	A	A	183.5		
David-John Stacey		F	A	A	200.5		
Zahirah Washington		F	A	A	203.6		
Total Hours:							0

7/24/96

10. MEMBER DATA:

OP SITE ID: 936A

Site Supervisor:

PHONE: 816-776-5861

Agency/Org Name:

FAX: 8167766902

STATE: NY

City:

No. of Members Allocated by USDA: 3

Member Name	SSN	SER STAT	PGM STAT	TRT STAT	HOURS		Total
					1st half	2nd half	
							0
Total Hours:							0

No. of Members Allocated by USDA: 3

No. of Active Members Whose Enrollment Forms were recieved at USDA (not including terminations): 0

No. of Members for Whom Forms Have NOT Been Recieved*: 3

ENTER the number of vacancies that you intend to fill in the next reporting period: _____

ENTER the number of vacancies you intend to relinquish for the program year: _____

* If the number of Members allocated is greater than the number of forms received, there are four options: 1. There are Members enrolled in programs whose forms have not been submitted to the USDA Director of National Service. If that is the case, list the names, SSN, Status and hours of the missing members on the back of this sheet and send the enrollment forms to the USDA Director of National Service. 2. The enrollment forms were sent directly to the Corporation. If that is the case, send copies to the USDA Director of National Service immediately. 3. There are vacancies in your program you intend to fill in the next reporting period. If that is the case, enter the number of vacancies on the appropriate line. 4. There are vacancies that you can not fill and you are relinquishing them.

REMEMBER, MEMBERS WHOSE FORMS HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED AT USDA ARE NOT CONSIDERED ENROLLED IN THE PROGRAM AND THEIR BENEFITS (EDUCATION AWARD, ETC.) ARE JEOPARDIZED!!!

If the number of members for whom forms have been received is greater than the number of members allocated resulting in a negative number appearing in the "No. of Members for Whom Forms Have NOT Been Received" line, you have enrolled more members in your program than authorized. Please explain this over enrollment. It may be that some members have terminated, in which case, change their status on this form and submit the proper end of term of service form to the USDA Director of National Service.

1. Please list the total number of **volunteers** who took part in activities which were sponsored or organized by all the Members in the state during this period.

1st half	2nd half	Total
<u>25</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

12. Please list the total number of **hours of community service** completed by the volunteers cited above during this period.

1st half	2nd half	Total
<u>196</u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

SECTION IV - PROGRESS TOWARDS ACCOMPLISHING SERVICE OBJECTIVES:

13. **Original Community Service Objectives:** Attached are sheets summarizing the community service objectives that were originally approved for each operating site. In cases where a single objective may take an entire year to complete, that objective may have a sub-objectives listed. **You need to fill in the column marked "Mid-Term Quantity" and the column marked "Mid-Term Success" --- as well as any column that is blank, has a zero, or has a question mark --- for EVERY operating site.** Each chart should have the following columns:

"State" - The standard two-letter code for your state

"Obj No" - Each community service objective for each site is assigned an individual number

"Op Site" - Each site's unique operating site identification

"PGM Code" - Each type of service has been assigned a unique code to describe that type of service. See the appendix to this report entitled "Community Service PGM Code List"

"Obj/Impact Statement" - A few words verbally summarizing the community service objective

"Summer's QTY Target" - The Summer's numerical goal for the people or things to be aided

"Target Unit of Measurement" - The unit of measure used in the previous column

"Mid Term Quantity" - Provide a hard number indicating progress towards the "Summer's QTY Target"

"Summer's Success Target" - Number for a way of measuring *quality* of service provided --- if this column is blank, has a question mark, or has a zero, please replace it with the accurate information

"Success Unit of Measure" - Explanation of the number in the previous column --- if this column is blank, has a question mark, or has a zero, please replace it with the accurate information

7/24/96

936A

QUESTION 13. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACCOMPLISHING ORIGINAL SUMMER OF GLEANING COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES
(Under "Mid-TERM Quantity" enter the amount of work done in the third quarter. Do the same for "MID-TERM Success".)

State	OP Site	Obj No.	PGM Code	Obj/Impact Statement	Summer QTY Target	Unit of Measure	MID-TERM Quantity	Summer Success Target	Success Unit of Measure	MID-TERM Success
NY	936A	1	EN-H007A	Farmland gleaned for distribution of food to hungry citizens	20,000	# of lbs of food rescued	20,000+	13,333	# of individuals fed with gleaned food	13,333

14. PROGRESS TOWARDS ACCOMPLISHING ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY SERVICE OBJECTIVES

Use this section to report progress towards completing additional new objectives --- those objectives in addition to the main objectives of each project listed on the proceeding page. Please fill in all columns for all objectives. It is important to make sure that each objective is listed with its own "OP site" (Operating site) code; this ensures that we know precisely what service is performed at each site. Please fill in all columns for each objective. Under "Obj No.," please give each new objective a number different from the number used for any of the objectives on the proceeding page. Under "PGM Code", please use a one-letter and three-digit code to describe the service from the code list provided at the end of this report. Under "Obj/Impact statement," provide a several-word summary of the nature of the service project -- this verbal summary should roughly match the "PGM Code" listed in the previous column. Under "Summer's QTY Target," provide a hard number for the people or things aided. Under "Target Unit of Measurement," specify what unit of measure was used in the previous column -- such as miles, number of people served, acres, etc. Under "1st QTR Quantity," provide a hard number indicating progress towards the "Summer's QTY Target" that was accomplished during this reporting period. Under "Summer's Success Target," provide a hard number for a way of measuring how well the service was provided. Under "Successes Unit of Measure," specify exactly what the number in the previous column meant. Under "1st QTR Success," provide a hard number indicating progress towards the "Summer's Success Target" that was accomplished during this reporting period.

1st QTR State Op Site Measure	Obj No.	PGM Code	Obj/Impact statement	Summer's QTY		Summer's Success		Unit of Success
				Target	QTY Unit of Measure	1st QTR Quantity	Target	

{SAMPLE:}

CA Y05A	18	EN96	Constrcuting whale nesting boxes	3	Boxes	1	90	%
meeting stand.	95%							

N/A

"Mid-Term Success" - Provide a hard number indicating progress towards the "Summer's Success Target"

- 15. Community Service Objectives Narrative (optional):** If you feel it is necessary and/or helpful, you may use this space to describe in more detail accomplishments towards the original community service objectives reported in question 13 and/or your additional community service objectives reported in question 14. Please make sure you include the Operating Site ID Number in each narrative description so we can be clear which accomplishment is matched to which site.

Operational site 936A met it's overall goal of 20,000 lbs. of food gleaned and rescued with less than half the time anticipated. Americorps Members have done an outstanding job locating and distributing this food to 22 food pantry's and shelters in the Capital District of New York. This was accomplished by working with the Regional Food Bank, FSA outreach to farmers and visits to farmer's markets.

- 16. Community Building Objectives Narrative (optional):** Briefly describe how projects have brought together diverse groups of people, empowered communities to solve their own problems, built long term structures that will last beyond each AmeriCorps Member's term of service, and generally improved the abilities of local citizens to help improve their own lives.

The "Summer of Gleaning" Americorps Members are generating "Serve Albany Day" projects with a gleaning focus. These will build awareness of local hunger issues and showcase gleaning as one solution. The team is working with the Capital Gleaning Network to keep the gleaning project going after September 30th. We have also rented a walkin cooler from a food coop and published a newsletter which will reach 1000 plus people.

- 17. AmeriCorps Member Development Objectives Narrative (optional):** Briefly describe how the AmeriCorps Members themselves have benefited from serving in the program, particularly in regard to expanding their own educational opportunity and increasing their own ethic of personal responsibility. Describe specific skills learned by Members through either their service or training. Describe any Members that earned a GED or otherwise advanced their education. Describe any Members that left public assistance to join AmeriCorps. Relate how AmeriCorps allowed Members to continue college or graduate school. Describe how Members may have changed their ethic of work, citizenship, or community volunteerism.

On August 13 & 14 the Albany Americorps will visit the Windsor, CT. gleaning group for a day of gleaning and personal development. The development of a newsletter and its distribution is a great educational opportunity. The groups experience working with the media and others has heightened their communication and organization skills. Their desire to establish a NYS Gleaning Office here in Albany is a noteworthy goal.

SECTION V - SUCCESS STORIES:

18. **Unique Successes or Great Stories :** Briefly describe one or two unique and/or exceptional success stories, a program highlight, or a 'great story' from your state. Please explain any instance in which AmeriCorps Members recruited non-AmeriCorps community volunteers for projects. Please include all media coverage, including original newspaper clips, videotapes of TV coverage, and cassette tapes of radio coverage; any letters of support or thank you letters; "before and after" photographs, brochures, posters, and newsletters created by the project; and other types of creative documentation.
- A) "Swearing In" Ceremony held at Albany City Hall with Mayor Gerald Jennings, Congressman Michael McNulty and FSA SED Marc Smith. Three (3) TV Stations filmed the event.
 - B) Program "Kick Off" held at the "Harvest for the Hungry" Garden on the NYS University Campus. The two (2) major capital newspapers covered the story. Albany Mayor Jennings and FSA SED Marc Smith addressed those in attendance.

SECTION VI - CHALLENGES

19. **Difficulties Faced by the Program:** Use this section to report on any problems your Members have encountered in the program this period. These should be significant issues which were related to achieving objectives, significant delays in implementation, administrative problems, or any other expectations, events or incidents that have caused the Members concern. State the problem concisely and how the issue has, or has not been resolved. Be sure to outline the steps taken and identify any resources needed to assist in resolving the problem.

Suggestion: Have State Offices or County Offices prepare paperwork packets necessary to get members into the payroll system prior to program kick off, so that needed information can be gathered on the first day of work for the members.

SECTION V - GENERAL INFORMATION

National Identity Activities (OPTIONAL): Please describe any activities undertaken by Members that fostered the national identity of AmeriCorps. These could include joint service activities, meetings with other AmeriCorps projects, national telephone conference calls, use of Internet to communicate with other sites, etc.

Albany Group will meet with the Connecticut Group. Member, Tory Reyes participated in conference call August 1st with other groups nationwide. "Summer of Gleaning" members are working with Albany Servicecorp Americorps Members on joint projects, ie "Serve Albany Day" and National Week of Food Recovery.

21. **Organizational Changes:** Please outline and describe any changes in your program's organization and/or structure during the quarter.

Carole Flood - Team Leader resigned.

22. **Organizational Improvements (OPTIONAL):** Please write any suggestions by you, your Members, site managers, or anyone else regarding ways in which the USDA or CNS AmeriCorps program could be improved.

23. **Primary Training and Technical Assistance Needs (OPTIONAL):** Please specify precisely what kind of staff or Member training or other technical assistance can be provided by USDA, the Corporation for National Service, or other sources to improve your projects.

{END OF REPORT}