

Local Realtors Can Help Diminish Hunger in America

While 49 million Americans are need food assistance, more than 40 million home gardeners grow food, often harvesting far more than they can use, preserve or give to friends.

The AmpleHarvest.org^(sM) Campaign, a not-profit organization, was established in May 2009 with the goal of enabling millions of America's home gardeners to easily find a local food pantry eager for their excess garden produce. More than 5,000 food pantries across all 50 states have joined AmpleHarvest.org. It has received support from Google.com, the USDA, many food banks, Rotary Int'l, VFW, major faith



organizations as well as writers/bloggers across the country (see www.AmpleHarvest.org/feedback.php and www.AmpleHarvest.org/news.php). In May 2010, the founder of AmpleHarvest.org was designated as CNN Hero (www.AmpleHarvest.org/CNN.php).

You and your fellow realtors are uniquely positioned to help AmpleHarvest.org.

- 1. If you know of a food pantry in your community, urge them to register at www.AmpleHarvest.org. Registering is pantry is easy, quick and FREE. In addition to entering the name, address, phone and other information about the pantry, they can also upload a digital photograph of the pantry if they have one, to make it easier to find. They can also list store bought items the pantry most desperately needs, for donors who, using our free iPhone app, want to help even when the gardening season is over. Pantries do not need refrigerated storage or Internet access to take advantage of the campaign.
- 2. Let all of your clients know about this opportunity to help their community.
- 3. Ask local garden shops, nurseries, supermarkets, etc. to post the flier at http://www.ampleharvest.org/InformingTheGardener.php to further help spread the word to gardeners in the community.
- 4. If you know of Community Foundations or other organizations that support anti-hunger efforts, help AmpleHarvest.org receive funding it needs to continue this innovative effort.

These are difficult times for many people. AmpleHarvest.org enables Americans to help their neighbors in need by reaching into their backyards instead of their back pockets.