

# More About Gleaning



A parish in Bakersfield, California, found a way to connect hungry people with nourishing food. Those who do this work are called "Gleaners," like Ruth and Naomi in the Hebrew Scriptures. Here's more about gleaning.

Although most people in our country have plenty to eat, hunger is still a serious problem. In fact, one of every 12 American children goes to bed hungry at least some of the time.

The problem is especially sad because in the United States, millions of tons of good food gets thrown away every year. The Gleaners realized that this good quality food could be taken to food banks.

There are now volunteer organizations all over America that do the work of gleaning. For instance, the Society of St. Andrew goes out to farms and orchards to pick fruits and vegetables by hand after the machine harvesting is completed.

There's much that students can do to help in this great work of feeding the hungry.

- Volunteer at a soup kitchen or food pantry
- Raise funds for hunger organizations
- Suggest a food drive at your parish or school
- Provide garden tools for local gardeners
- Donate vegetables you grow yourself
- Write or call your congressperson when issues that affect hungry people come up for a vote.



As gleaners everywhere have discovered, bringing food to the hungry is joyful and rewarding work. How can you become a gleaner?