

I want to Glean with you. How do I get Connected?

Step One: Pick a Date

A Saturday morning, December to June or Sunday morning from mid-January through mid-April.

Step Two: Email Keith at kcutshall@crosmministries.org. He will confirm the date for you. He will also send you the waiver form in a gleaning packet. Please bring it to the field with you.

Step Three: Between Monday afternoon and Wednesday morning, before the Saturday or Sunday you are to glean, you will receive the directions to the field.

Step Four: Read the tips in the gleaning packet, make preparations and come out on Saturday morning to the field to join us.

Step Five: Have a great time and know that your morning is making a difference in the lives of those in need.



Gleaning...



CROS Ministries serves the hungry in Palm Beach and Martin Counties through community collaborations.

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Gleaning & Food Recovery

Gleaning brings growers, volunteers, and nonprofit agencies together to provide fresh food and produce to the hungry that would otherwise go to waste.



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Gleaning... Harvesting food for our Community

What is Gleaning?

CROS Ministries utilizes volunteers to recover fresh fruits and vegetables from mango groves, farmers' fields, cull lines, and donors' backyards. This food recovery strategy allows the harvested produce to be distributed free of charge through the Palm Beach County Food Bank to their food partners.

The Department of Children and Families estimates that 54 million pounds of produce goes to waste every year. The Palm Beach County Food Bank has also calculated that 32 million pounds of food is needed to ensure that no one goes hungry in our community.



What to Expect

The Where:

Palm Beach and Martin Counties wherever a grower has a crop they want to donate. Our gleaning season follows the growing season, and we often have more than one gleaning opportunity on a Saturday morning.

Directions are emailed out weekly, participants are responsible for getting to the fields themselves.

The What:

We pick beets, cucumbers, green peppers, sweet corn, squash, tomatoes, potatoes, mangoes, and whatever else might become available to us.



The When:

Saturday mornings from late November through most of July. Sunday mornings from mid-January to mid-April. Large groups can schedule a gleaning event on a Monday or Friday with advance notice. Mango gleaning in June will have some weekday dates.

Gleaning events are typically 8:45 am until noon.

The How:

A field supervisor will give an orientation and direct you to the proper area in the field. Produce is loaded into a field box. Boxes are loaded into a pick-up for transport to a truck that will take the produce to the Food Bank.

The Why:

Feeding America reports that 15% of Palm Beach County residents are "food insecure" which means that 200,000 people do not know where their next meal will come from. According to the most recent census data, one in four children in Palm Beach County lives below the poverty line and 61% of elementary-age children attending Palm Beach County public schools are on the free and reduced cost lunch program.



The Who:

Individuals, families, or groups are welcome to join us in a gleaning event. Participants must be 5 years of age or older and all participants 6 and under must be within arms-reach of a responsible adult. All participants must sign a liability waiver before they are permitted to glean with us. We do give community service hours for those who participate with us.



CONTACT INFORMATION

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