



GROW THE GLEANERS

BOSTON AREA GLEANERS
From Farms to Families
240 Beaver Street
Waltham, MA 02452



Boston Area Gleaners has reached a thrilling milestone. We want to share our excitement with you and to ask for your help to **Grow the Gleaners!**

Over the past decade, we have grown exponentially—from one employee to 25, and from distributing 38,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables in 2010 to over **5 million pounds** this past year for people in need across Massachusetts. Since the onset of the pandemic last March, food insecurity has reached an all-time high, and we have provided our neighbors with over 25 million servings of desperately needed produce. **Your support has made this growth possible.**

So far we have managed to expand despite the limitations of our facility, which has minimal storage and packing space—but it can no longer accommodate the volume of food we are transporting through the supply chain.

Our three-year strategic plan is focused on improving the health of our community and the viability of the entire local food system. While our operational priorities are clear, in order to expand, **the Gleaners need a new home.**

We have found the perfect spot, and we need your help to secure it.

Stonefield Farm in Acton is a 50-acre property that provides ample space for our operations as well as opportunities to serve even more people. The current owners, the Simeone family, have farmed the land for almost a century, and are committed to transferring the property to a social cause. They believe that the Gleaners are a perfect fit, and so do we.

With adequate infrastructure on the property, **we will be able to distribute an additional 4.5 million pounds of locally-grown surplus produce each year to food-insecure individuals and families.** The agricultural land will provide space for the Gleaners to expand our innovative programming, and with the support of conservation partners and the Town of Acton, we will ensure that the entire property, including open space, farmland, and woodlands, is permanently protected from development.

We have a significant fundraising goal of \$4.1 million—one that will not only allow us to purchase the property, but will also let us make necessary improvements to enhance our operational efficiency. **As we kick off this campaign, we already have 60% of those funds secured!**

We believe Stonefield Farm presents a unique opportunity for the Gleaners to secure our future, live up to our potential, and create a myriad of community benefits. Your support has already helped us make a difference in the lives of countless families in our region, and we ask you at this critical juncture to help us continue to **Grow the Gleaners.**

With Deep Gratitude,



Usha

P.S. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the first **\$100,000** of the Grow the Gleaners campaign will be matched. **Your early gift will have double the impact!**

*Contributions can be made using the enclosed envelope
or by visiting growthegleaners.org.*



GROW THE GLEANERS

The Gleaners are growing!

Your support will help us secure a new home and significantly expand our impact from farms to families.



OUR STORY

Since our inception, we have been committed to fighting food insecurity, reducing food waste, and supporting farmers.

Powered by a community of volunteers, donors, and partner organizations, we harvest surplus crops, distribute to hunger-relief organizations and bridge critical gaps across the food system. **Our goal is to support an equitable, just, and sustainable local food landscape, and we're just getting started.**

2004

Founded as all-volunteer crop recovery effort
8,000 pounds of food distributed

2010

First paid staff & produce van
38,000 pounds of food distributed

2017

First two box trucks added to fleet
Over 500,000 pounds of food distributed

2020

5th & 6th trucks added to distribution fleet
Over 5 million pounds of food distributed
(COVID Emergency Response)

2021

Purchase a permanent facility to grow our operations

In the last decade, the Gleaners have captured and distributed more than **9 million pounds of nutritious food** (over 36 million servings) for food-insecure families, working in collaboration with:



“2020 was a challenging year for folks facing food insecurity. When we needed more fresh produce for our homebound delivery and adult day programs, **the Gleaners filled the void.**”

DARRA SLAGLE
DIRECTOR, ROSE'S BOUNTY FOOD PANTRY

A NEW HOME

The Gleaners have outgrown our current facility. In response, to get more food to more people, **we are moving forward with a \$4.1 million campaign to secure Stonefield Farm in Acton as our new, permanent home.**

This new site will provide:



Cold storage for fresh produce



Dry storage for packaging and supplies



Loading docks to accommodate large trucks



Packing space for washing, bunching, & packaging produce



Parking for staff, volunteers, and equipment



Office space for the whole team



20+ acres of **agricultural land**

Our new home will allow us to get more food where it's needed...



The Gleaners will operate year-round and **increase food distribution** by an estimated 4.5 million pounds annually.



Our location in a geographic 'sweet spot' relative to our partners will **reduce travel time** to farms by 40% and increase the efficiency of our distribution routes by 35%.



We will expand the **geographic reach** of our food recovery and distribution efforts.

...and do even more.



- New opportunity to grow specific, **culturally-appropriate crops** for hunger relief
- Agricultural land will **support emerging farmers**
- Nearby commuter rail and bike trails **expand access** for staff and volunteers
- Property purchase will **preserve 50 acres of open space**, including farmland, recreational hiking trails, and wildlife habitat

Will you consider a gift to secure our new home?

Visit growthegleaners.org to pitch in and build a future with healthy food for all.

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(781) 894-3212

