

A Brief History of Plant A Row for the Hungry



Plant A Row (PAR) began in 1995, in Anchorage, Alaska, in the garden column of Jeff Lowenfels, former Garden Writers Association (GWA) President, when he asked gardeners to plant a row of vegetables for Bean's Cafe, an Anchorage soup kitchen. Since then, PAR has grown exponentially through continued media support, individual and company sponsorship, and volunteerism.

PAR's success hinges on its people-helping-people approach. The concept is simple. There are over 70 million gardeners in the U.S. alone, and most plant vegetables and harvest more than they can consume. If every gardener plants one extra row of vegetables and donates their surplus to local food banks and soup kitchens, a significant impact can be made on reducing hunger. Food agencies will have access to fresh produce, funds earmarked for produce can be redirected to other needed items and the hungry of America will have more and better food than is presently available.

PAR was officially endorsed by Master Gardeners and by the Community Gardening Association of America in 1997. In 1999, HGTV joined GWA as media sponsor and The Disney Institute sponsored Plant A Row at the Orlando teaching gardens. In 2002, the Garden Writers Association Foundation received official tax-exempt status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit educational organization from the Internal Revenue Service.

The Happy Gardener, Inc. is a proud Bronze Sponsor of PAR. Independent Garden Consultants provide customers, friends, family and organizations with information and supplies to participate in this charitable endeavor. We are very proud that 96% of our active Independent Consultants volunteer for and/or have created official PAR campaigns in their communities. Throughout the country, our efforts have helped food banks, community kitchens and food service organizations collect over a million pounds of fresh produce.

In the Duluth/Hermantown area, we have partnered with several local food shelves and soup kitchens to make sure that the donations are spread throughout the community and that local gardeners have ample locations at which to donate. The PARTICIPATING food shelves/soup kitchens are listed below, along with addresses, drop-off times and other information.

When dropping off, please tell the volunteers that your donation is part of Plant A Row. Remember that donations of fresh produce are tax deductible. PAR donor receipts are available at each participating drop-off location. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via phone or email. All of my information is at the top of this sheet.

Thank You and Happy Gardening!!

Emily S. Homan

Independent Garden Consultant – The Happy Gardener

Food Bank/Soup Kitchen	Address:	Drop-Off Times:	Drop-Off Instructions:	Other Info:
Fruit of the Vine Food Shelf	1533 Arrowhead Road Duluth, MN 55811	TBA	TBA	Can weigh produce on-site
Hermantown Food Shelf	5028 Miller Trunk Hwy Hermantown, MN 55811	8am-12pm Mon. & Tues.	Entrance at back of building near ramp	Can weigh produce on-site
Damiano Center	206 W. 4 th St. Duluth, MN 55806	9am-3pm Fri., Sat. & Sun.	TBA	TBA
Union Gospel Mission	219 E. 1st St. Duluth, MN 55802	7:30am-6pm M-F	To kitchen – door to the left of the front door.	No venison. Can weigh produce on-site.
Salvation Army	215 S. 27 th Ave. W. Duluth, MN 55806	8:30am-4:30pm M-F	Come to main office.	Can weigh produce on-site.
Living Waters Food Shelf/Streams of Life Ministry	332 N. 40 th Ave. W. Duluth, MN 55807	10am-1pm Tues. 4pm-7pm Fri.	TBA	TBA
CHUM Emergency Food Shelf – WEST	4831 Grand Ave. Duluth, MN 55807	11am-2pm Tues&Thurs.	Come to side door of church take elevator to basement	Weigh produce before dropping off
CHUM Emergency Food Shelf – DOWNTOWN	120 N. First Ave. W. Duluth, MN 55802	9am-2pm M-F	Use side/alley door	Weigh produce before dropping off
Second Harvest Food Bank	4503 Airpark Blvd. Duluth, MN 55811	TBA	East side of warehouse through agency entrance.	Can weigh produce on-site.