

# News Release



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## **AMPLEHARVEST.ORG ANNOUNCES “CENTERPIECES FOR PANTRIES” INITIATIVE**

***Nationwide hunger/nutrition campaign recommends replacing Thanksgiving table floral centerpieces with edible arrangements to be donated to a local food pantry the next day.***

### **For Immediate Release**

**West Milford, NJ** – (Nov 13, 2011) – The AmpleHarvest.org Campaign announces its “Centerpieces for Pantries” initiative.

Millions of families nationwide will be celebrating Thanksgiving and the upcoming holiday season with a sumptuous dinner table graced with a floral centerpiece. Whether provided by the host or a guest, these flowers soon wilt and need to be thrown away.

Meanwhile, for millions of hungry families nationwide, Thanksgiving will just be another evening struggling to get food on the table.

The AmpleHarvest.org Centerpieces for Pantries initiative encourages people to use edible arrangements of whole fruit and vegetables on their dinner tables instead of floral arrangements. According to AmpleHarvest.org founder Gary Oppenheimer, “Pretty as they are, flowers quickly wilt and need to be thrown away within days. Instead, a bowl or basket of whole fruit can be used as a beautiful centerpiece for that special dinner – and can then be donated to a local food pantry the next day. More than 4,600 food pantries spread across all fifty states have registered with AmpleHarvest.org with more signing up daily.

“These arrangements can be purchased from floral and gift companies, or can be made at home. You can even have the children in the household contribute to the evening by letting them create it with whole fruit, vegetables and nuts purchased at a local store or farmers market. Then once the dinner is over, visit [www.AmpleHarvest.org](http://www.AmpleHarvest.org) to find a food pantry in your neighborhood eager for the donation.”

“It important to remember that food pantries can only accept whole food. If the fruit/vegetables are cut, carved or pierced with tooth picks, they will not be accepted by most food pantries” noted Oppenheimer.

AmpleHarvest.org enables your edible table centerpiece to grace your table one day and feed another family the next. Visit [www.AmpleHarvest.org/holiday](http://www.AmpleHarvest.org/holiday) to learn more.

#### About AmpleHarvest.org

AmpleHarvest.org, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501c3 charity which has received backing and support from the USDA, Google, Inc., National Gardening Association, the Garden Writers of America, Rotary International, National Council of Churches, Veterans of Foreign Wars, food banks nationwide, numerous faith groups and many others. The AmpleHarvest.org Campaign, in pursuit of its “no food left behind” mantra, works to diminish hunger, improve nutrition and help the environment in America by enabling gardeners nationwide to easily find a local food pantry eager to receive the excess garden bounty. For more information on the campaign, visit [www.AmpleHarvest.org/press](http://www.AmpleHarvest.org/press) or call AMPLE-6-9880 (267-536-9880).

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