

MEDIA ALERT
November 9, 2009

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Local Ag Against Hunger Gleaners to be highlighted in National Steinbeck Center's "Gleaning Stories Project"

The National Steinbeck Center, located at One Main Street in Oldtown Salinas, will co-sponsor "The Gleaners: A Harvest of Stories" by the Gleaning Stories Project at the National Steinbeck Center on Sunday, November 15th from 2-4 p.m. For over a year, the Gleaning Stories Project has been collecting the stories of people of all ages who go into local fields and orchards to salvage vegetables and fruit after commercial harvests. Rescuing food that would otherwise be wasted, these gleaners help Ag Against Hunger get fresh produce to food banks, soup kitchens, and other food distribution centers.

Ag Against Hunger's gleaning program, which runs from April through November, gives local community members an opportunity to help feed those in need and learn about local agriculture. After harvest, there is an abundance of high-quality, marketable produce left in the field. This gleaning program coordinates the picking of these crops left after commercial harvest and distributes the produce to local food banks and pantries, including the Food Bank for Monterey County and Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Cruz County, Grey Bears of Santa Cruz and Community Food Bank of San Benito County.

Ag Against Hunger collects surplus produce from over 50 tri-county grower-shippers and distributes it to food banks throughout the West Coast. The produce is distributed in Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties first, where it feeds over 75,000 low-income people each month through local food banks working with over 240 agencies before being distributed to millions more in need.

"The Gleaners: A Harvest of Stories" is a free event at the National Steinbeck Center. For more information about Ag Against Hunger and upcoming opportunities to glean, call (831) 755-1480 or go to www.agagainsthunger.org. For more information on this event, call The National Steinbeck Center at (831) 775-4721 or go to www.steinbeckstore.org.