

# NEWSLETTER

In order to better communicate with our members and community partners we're rolling out a quarterly newsletter where you'll find important announcements, updates on programs, upcoming events and more!

## A quick look at last year We accomplished a lot in 2022!

- » Our membership grew to almost 550 families, helping them save money on grocery and household goods costs.
- » We distributed over 61,066 amount of items to our families through the Galleria.
- » We conducted dozens of field gleans & picked over 2,300lbs of blueberries alone!
- » We distributed more than 1.3 million pounds of food through our market.
- » We were able to donate more than 174,000 pounds of food out to food banks and food insecurity programs in our county.
- » Through your dedication this year, we stewarded 21,628 hours of volunteerism for the organization!

At the end of the year we thank our community partners and donors with your delicious home baked cookies. Our donors look forward to it every holiday season!

A big thank you to the volunteers who baked and packaged cookies for our donor drop off!



Donor Cookie  
Packaging Party  
Nov 23rd



## A WORD FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MORGAN CURRY

Hello everyone! I hope you and your families have had a great start to the New Year. Whether you're a first time Gleaner, a lifelong participant or a community partner, the staff and I are thrilled to have you involved with our organization.

Before we get caught in the throws of 2023, I would like to share some goals and strategies leading us into this year and beyond. We strengthened our role as a local leader in food justice work through the additions of a few key programs:

- The BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) Farmer Collaboration. You can learn more about the successes of this program by clicking the link below.

[Learn more about our BIPOC Farmer Collaboration](#)

- A handful of culturally relevant food projects for Mexican-indigenous farmworkers. You can read more about the successes of these projects by clicking the link below.

[Learn more about our culturally relevant food project](#)

To further our organization's understanding of the role we can play in liberating racialized food inequities, last year I dedicated my graduate research to examine why food and agricultural programs continuously fail to address the root causes of food insecurity for migrant farmworkers. Essentially, this research project set out to describe what needs to happen in Skagit County's local food system to create food sovereignty and justice for migrant farmworkers and their families. Elements of the research findings may be used to guide future program development, pending collaboration and input from members, staff, and the board alike.

There will be an opportunity for members to weigh in on Skagit Gleaners' next Strategic Plan, which is a tool used to align organizational goals and priorities over a 3 – 5-year span. More information soliciting your input will be shared in the coming months.

Our current commitment to sustainability and building a healthy and resilient community will remain at the crux of future planning.

Some broad stroke goals for 2023 include the following:

- Grow our existing programs; obtain more fresh and organic fruits and vegetables
- Expand our grocery rescue efforts to challenge food waste practices
- Reinvigorate our child waiting area for optimal utilization and preferences
- Conduct several more hand-harvest farm gleaning events
- Look into alternative food system pilot projects
- Create more educational opportunities for members
- Increase our advocacy efforts
- Strengthen our role as a leader in food and environmental justice work

Lastly, you can also look forward to receiving an official 2022 Annual Report from our organization upon its completion.

We are excited to work alongside you for another great year at Skagit Gleaners! If you have any questions or feedback, you are welcome to email me at [gleanersdirector@gmail.com](mailto:gleanersdirector@gmail.com) or call/text my cell at 360-391-3487.



## Mark Your Calendar!

We're rolling out a few new things this year!

### Member Orientations

We will be holding quarterly member orientations in 2023.

These orientations will be available for all Gleaners, newly enrolled and long established members alike. During orientation you'll learn the full scope of your Gleaner benefits, how to manage your volunteer hours and have the opportunity to try out new volunteer roles .

Once we've covered the membership portion and you've had all your questions answered you will have the chance to split off and learn how to volunteer in specific areas that you may be interested in.

We highly encourage you to participate in these orientations even if you've been around for a while. If you would like to help us train your fellow Gleaners during orientation please reach out to our Volunteer and Office Coordinator Erika.

**The first one will be held February Friday 24th from 12:30 - 2:30 & Saturday 25th from 11:30-1:30. Saturdays orientation will be held in a bilingual format.**

### Spring Glean Out Event



In preparation for the busy garage sale season in the summer, In the spring we will be holding a Glean Out event!

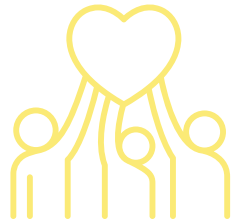
We'll expand the Galleria outside of its walls in a large shopping event. More details to come. If you'd like to be involved in this event please reach out to Erika.



We've got a lot of great field gleans coming up in late spring and summer. Field gleans are an amazing opportunity for us as an organization, for the farmers and for the volunteers who pick with us.



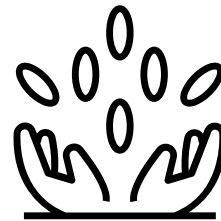
Picking food that would otherwise go to waste is great for the local environment.



Field gleaning with farms and local residents helps expand our relational network.



Families who help glean get to take a percentage of their pick home.



Field gleaning increases the variety of fresh produce we can distribute in the market.



Gleans that result in shared produce with the market will award you a fast pass.

# How to get involved

Email Chloe answering the questions below



[gleanerscoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:gleanerscoordinator@gmail.com)

Do you have experience in field gleaning?

Would you be comfortable being a Glean Lead?

Days and times of the week you are generally available.

If you are able to use your own vehicle or would need to drive one of the vans.



# ADVOCACY MATTERS

**Below are some additional food resources and advocacy opportunities that we would like to share with you.**

## WIC

Revisions are underway for the Special Supplemental nutrition Program for Women, Infants, Children (WIC). If you would like to submit a comment or recommendation to the WIC Food Packages, follow this link. Comments are due by 2/21/2023. [Submit a recommendation here.](#)

Legislation has expanded the Cash Value Benefit (CVB) Program that allows WIC families to receive a monthly stipend for fresh fruits and vegetables. The following is included and is extended through September 2023.

- \$25 for child participants
- \$44 for pregnant and postpartum participants
- \$49 for fully and partially breastfeeding participants
- \$73.50 for participants fully breastfeeding multiples

If you would like to see these permanent changes codified into the food package, submit a comment using the above link by 2/21/2023. To take advantage of this program, you need to register as a WIC client and meet certain eligibility requirements. Follow this link to see if you are eligible [register as a WIC client](#)

## DONATIONS IMPROVEMENT ACT

Legislation just passed the Donations Improvement Act. This act essentially makes it easier for organizations like Skagit Gleaners to receive food donations and further protects businesses who donate food items. To find out more about this bill, [follow the link here](#)

## THE FARM BILL

Every five years, the Farm Bill comes up for legislation. This is one of those years. The Farm Bill looks at everything from agricultural land use to SNAP benefits. To find out more about what we can expect from the next Farm Bill, [visit this link](#)





# ADVOCACY CONTINUED

## REQUESTS

Appropriations Request for Rick Larsen Office due 3/31. Original request has passed but Please complete the below form by Thursday, March 31 to request that Rep. Larsen [submit a request to the Appropriations Committee](#)

## SUPPLEMENTAL FOOD

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is available for adults over 60 years of age to receive mobile-home delivery of 30lbs of shelf stable foods. Sign up for the program here or call: 360-410-5023 [Learn more at this link.](#)

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN STAYING UP TO DATE IN AGRI-FOOD POLICIES, WE RECOMMEND YOU FOLLOW THESE RESOURCES

[FEDERAL REGISTER](#)

[FOOD TANK](#)

[BREAD FOR THE WORLD](#)

[NORTHWEST HARVEST](#)

## BECOME A PARTNER



### DONATE

You can partner with us financially. Your dollars will help us run our programs and purchase local produce when donations are low.



### FOOD RESCUE

We take food donations big and small. If you are a business with excess food we can set you up on our pick-up routes.



### VOLUNTEER

You can volunteer your time and talents to our daily operations. Additionally if you have specific skills in tech, repairs, food preservation, ect. You can utilize your skills with us in many different ways.

## CONTACT US

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360-848-1045

Morgan Curry - Executive Director  
gleanersdirector@gmail.com  
360-391-3487



# Gleaners Bulletin

Whether you've just joined or are a long time member be sure you are a part of our private Facebook group [Skagit Gleaners - Members Only](#)

This is where you'll see announcements, Glean alerts, connect with your fellow Gleaners, ask questions and help get coverage if you can't make your scheduled volunteer shift.



## Gleaners High Five! – Submitted by Joan Burns

Total High Five for Matt (I don't know his last name) as he is a true servant! Matt jumped in to clean up a slippery spilled/broken bottle of olive oil that slipped out of another member's hand, at the WALL. Even though Matt had a Fast Pass, he made sure the spill was contained, so others wouldn't step in it. It took quite some time to make sure the floor was clean and dry again, but Matt sacrificed his shopping time to make it safe for everyone. Matt, you're my Hero, Bro!!

If you want to submit to the next newsletter email Chloe – [gleanerscoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:gleanerscoordinator@gmail.com)

Update your info  
next time you shop!

Is your information up to date? It's important that we have the most current contact information on file for you so we can keep you informed.

Newsletter  
Facebook Group  
Text Announcements  
Email Communications

How we will communicate  
more with you in 2023