

April 28, 2014



Feeding America San Diego is one of the largest hunger relief organizations in the state of California and one on 203 such organizations in America. As Executive Director of FASD, I can say that we help to feed approximately 73,000 residents each and every week. We could not do this alone – we rely heavily on our partner organizations in order to continuously feed those in need. One of our partner organizations is AmpleHarvest.org. With Founder/Executive Director, Mr. Gary Oppenheimer at the helm, we know that our partner food relief agencies can now benefit from fresh produce donated from local home gardeners. This resource of healthy, sustainable food was previously untapped until Gary had an innovative idea in 2009 to combine a solution to food waste with feeding the hungry... hence, AmpleHarvest.org was born. It is important to us to provide as much fresh, healthy food in order to help curb diet related illnesses such as diabetes and heart disease. AmpleHarvest.org gives anyone in America the affordable opportunity to help feed their neighbors in need by sharing their garden produce, and it enables our pantries accept it instead of refusing it because they lack refrigeration.

I believe that Gary Oppenheimer is more than worthy of being awarded the World Food Prize because of his genuine passion for what he does and for how hard he strives to grow his organization in order to help ALL food pantries across America receive fresh produce donations. He took a very simple idea and ran with it. He didn't complain about America's food waste – he took it on and in doing so, impacted a number of problems – hunger/nutrition (especially fresh produce), food waste, environment and community participation – at the same time.

I find Gary to be an innovative thinker with a very positive, can-do personality. I enjoy working with Gary and would love to see his organization benefit from this award which will help assure that more of the countries garden bounty gets to America's food insecure families and not be lost to waste.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Gilmore".

Jennifer Gilmore  
Executive Director