

# Awareness Is Key: Gauging the Level of Awareness of Food Insecurity Issues

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## INTRODUCTION:

- Overwhelming portion of population faces food insecurity issues
  - 23 million low-income households
  - 20%-25% of households in US
- Level of awareness of these issues is simply unknown
- Gleaning initiatives are beginning to become more prevalent

## RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

1. What is the level of awareness surrounding the food insecurity crisis?
2. Could gleaning potentially be a solution to decrease food insecurity issues



Figure 1: An image shows me and my coworker, Ife, harvesting a transparent apple tree in Ballard. The use of ladders and pickers make harvesting much more accessible and allow for a much larger harvest.

## INTERNSHIP & METHODS:

- Interned with **City Fruit** on their harvest team
- Interviewed 3 clients of City Fruit
- Performed research of scholarly journal articles

## RESULTS:

- Clients indicated they cared about not wasting food. However, were not very aware of current food insecurity issues
- Gleaning initiatives deemed not a sustainable solution to solve these issues
- Main solution is economic reform of food system
  - Government subsidies
  - Improve food assistance programs
  - Controlled market of produce

## QUOTATIONS:

- "Primary concern was the hundreds of pounds of fruit going to waste"
- "...I lived in Brooklyn, NY. We had to haul fresh produce from Manhattan to access a real supermarket
- "Most of us throw out food that could be shared with people who need it"
- "Most pressing issue [of our food system] is the large-scale corporate farming"
- "We hated to see fresh fruit going to waste...wanted it to go to people who could use it."

## SIGNIFICANCE:

- You or someone you know may be experiencing these issues
- Restore stability in our society
- Create a more sustainable food system going forward

## NEXT STEPS:

- Spread awareness of food insecurity issues
- Donate leftover foods that would go to waste
- Push for economic reform of food system



Figure 2: One completed harvest day's result. These six crates of transparent apples estimate roughly 250 pounds. All these apples were donated to a food donation program to ensure that it goes to individuals who have limited to no access to healthy foods.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

Special thanks to:

- Site Supervisor, Julian Garcia
- Faculty Advisor, Ann Anagnost
- Capstone Cohort
- Family & Friends