

## TAHOE DONNER GIVING FUND SUPPORTS THE TAHOE FOOD HUB

A combined grant from the Tahoe Donner Giving Fund (TDGF) and the Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation will support the Tahoe Food Hub's effort in providing fresh, healthy food to Project MANA for distribution to local families in need. This innovative program involves both purchasing food and gleaning food from local farmers' fields that otherwise would go to waste.

Tahoe Food Hub started a gleaning program in July, 2015. Over the course of four months and seven harvests, they have helped donate 4,000 lbs. of produce to Project MANA from local farms. Gleanings from Mountain Bounty Farm yielded abundantly diverse produce including peppers, carrots, corn, tomatoes, squash, onions, potatoes, chard, basil, melons and more.

"Having a gleaning team has been a goal for of the food hub from the beginning" remarks Susie Sutphin, Tahoe Food Hub Executive Director. "A lot of perfectly good food never makes it out of the field because the farmer doesn't have time to harvest it. With a team of volunteers, however, that perfectly good food can get into the hands of the people that need it most."

"We've learned over the years that there's a huge amount of great food out there just going to waste that could help feed folks facing food insecurity in our communities," comments Brian Hunt, Food Supply Manager for Project MANA. "We started by rescuing out-of-date food from the grocery stores. Partnering with Tahoe Food Hub and their gleaning program has now allowed us to distribute much healthier fresh produce to our community members."

"Project MANA is one of the most well respected non-profits in the area," said Jennifer Jordan, member of the TDGF Operations and Grant Committee. "They have been addressing emergency food needs in our community since 1991. Helping bring Project



bringing regional, ecological food to tahoe

MANA fresh food through the Tahoe Food Hub is a way for our Tahoe Donner members to contribute to the greater community we all enjoy."

The gleaning program requires a motivated and passionate coordinator to organize volunteers and make arrangements with the farms. Fortunately, Tahoe Food Hub has a powerhouse, Alex Herrera, former Truckee Elementary PTO President and long-time Truckee local. Herrera says the idea was a slam-dunk from the beginning. "The gleaning project is a win-win proposition for both the farmer and consumer. It directly addresses the well-understood crux of the hunger prob-

lem, which is not supply but distribution. A socially-conscious farm like Mountain Bounty (Nevada City) wants to see its occasional and inevitable surplus of crops find its way to food pantries, like Project MANA and onto the tables of those in need. What they were missing was simply the means to get it from where it's grown to where it's needed, and that's where our team fits in."

Gleanings will start back up next summer and the food hub looks forward to working with more farms and welcoming more gleaners. A day of gleaning usually takes about five to six hours door to door and requires some light physical labor. If interested in learning more, join the Tahoe Gleaners Facebook page or contact the food hub at [tahoefoodhub.org](http://tahoefoodhub.org).

"Members often ask the committee where their contributions to the TDGF will go," commented Dick Gander, co-chair of the TDGF Operations and Grant Committee. "This grant to the Tahoe Food Hub is a great example of how Tahoe Donner members, both full and part time, can have an impact on the greater community." If you would like to contribute to the Giving Fund, please use the insert in your annual assessment letter or visit [tahoe-donner.com/giving-fund](http://tahoe-donner.com/giving-fund). If you would like to volunteer for the committee or have questions, email [TDGF@TahoeDonner.com](mailto:TDGF@TahoeDonner.com).

