



Human Rights Participatory Growth and Poverty Eradication Program

2010-2011 PROJECT



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Food Rescue Action!
is an action research project of the Human Rights, Participatory Growth and Poverty Eradication Program engaging volunteers at York University.

www.yorku.ca/povproj

RATIONALE



Every harvesting season 25 million pounds of perfectly edible produce is wasted in Ontario, this is largely due to not meeting the aesthetic standards for grocery stores. To address this problem, The Human Rights, Participatory Growth and Poverty Eradication Program (HRPGP) created the project 'Food Rescue Action!' Research was conducted to reveal the immediate needs for food security. 'Food Rescue Action!' aims to increase food bank access to fresh produce, reduce waste and simultaneously involve university students in community action reducing hunger and malnutrition. In the summer of 2011, our organization formed a partnership with the Ontario Association of Food Banks to create a project where student volunteers would take a trip to a local farm to harvest, or 'glean', the leftover crops and donate the produce to food banks.

ACTION TIME

A pilot food rescue trip was organized and took place on October 7, 2011. It engaged 25 university students who took a trip to Everdale Organic Farm in Guelph, Ontario. At the farm the students and staff collected spinach and lettuce. Our volunteers and staff were able to make a sizeable contribution of harvested produce to the Wellington Centre Food Bank in Guelph. This was distributed to local shelters, food bank branches and schools.



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