

# Friendship Gardens Food Safety Guidelines for Donated Harvest

Thank you for helping provide fresh, healthy food to the Friendship Trays meals-on-wheels recipients! It is important to consider the safety and quality of the harvest being donated by following these simple guidelines.

## Would You Eat It?

- Please donate high quality produce to Friendship Trays.

## Personal Hygiene

- Prior to harvesting wash hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds with soap and water. Dry hands with a clean towel or air dry.
- Do not smoke or use tobacco products while harvesting.

## Safe Harvesting

- Collect and transport produce in clean containers that are in good condition (no cracks or deep scratches) and are dedicated to food collection or storage. Plastic baskets, buckets, and coolers work well.
- Clean all containers, scissors, and other harvesting tools with warm, soapy water immediately prior to harvest.
- Store harvest tools separately from other garden tools and label them appropriately.
- Remove large pieces of dirt from the produce by shaking gently or rinsing with water.
- Children under 18 years of age should be supervised while harvesting.

## Safe Storage

- Deliver produce to Friendship Trays on the same day that it is harvested. This helps retain produce nutrition and increases the freshness of the harvest.
- If produce needs to be stored at home, place produce in a clean food-grade plastic bag, label "Friendship Trays", and store in a clean refrigerator away from raw animal products and without exposure to open containers.

As a donor, you are protected by the "Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act" (<http://www.foodtodonate.com/Fdcmain/LegalLiabilities.aspx>) This law protects donors from civil and criminal liability should the product donated in good faith cause harm to the needy recipient.