



Staff Spotlight: *Shelly's Garden*



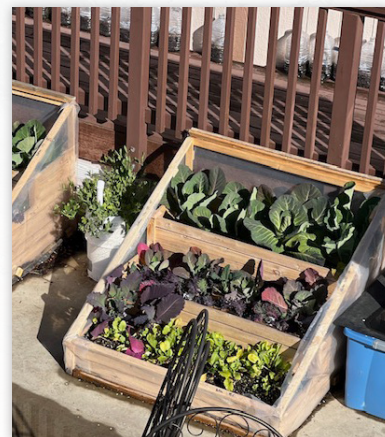
Last fall, staff member Shelly Warner began working on a dream she had since first coming to **Gleanings For The Hungry** in 2021: to start a food bank garden. Stepping out in faith, and drawing on years of experience and study, Shelly's food bank garden is already yielding garlic, carrots, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, onions, kale, leeks, potatoes, tomatoes, herbs, and much more. Most of the produce has been grown from seed.

"This is where I worship God," Shelly said, standing among the raised beds and buckets, "It's an investment of love." Shelly hopes in time to be able to fill two hundred boxes each week with fresh produce to hand out at the Friday outreach in Sultana. She also hopes to help feed **Gleanings'** volunteers who come to process soup and peaches.

Shelly has persevered through unprecedented rainfall this winter, along with a broken sewer line that had to be dug up underneath the garden. She records her daily process on an app that helps track planting times for the particular climate in Dinuba.

Originally from Everett, Washington, Shelly previously worked in a food bank garden spanning an acre in size. She recalls working in the garden late into the night in her early years as a Christian. This was a special season of closeness with God. "I want that season back," Shelly says.

Shelly's vision for the **Gleanings** food bank garden includes expansion, three different entrances, benches, lights and an arch where flowers would grow. She is excited for this project to be used for the kingdom of God. If you'd like to participate with labor or finances, all are invited to come and support. "No experience necessary; bring your mud boots!" Shelly said.



SUMMER 2023



AMAZING OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO SERVE

The summer season is fast approaching! One of the most influential aspects of the summer season is our Summer Staff program for young adults ages 18-25 years old. Summer Staff is a dynamic servant leadership program focused on empowering young adults to lead while producing dried peaches in our fruit production plant, to be sent out with the gospel. Summer Staff is a 12-week program, starting the last week of May and running through mid-August. Summer leaders will have the opportunity to lead various aspects of the program, dive deep into the heart of God, and discover more about themselves as they grow into the leader God has made them to be. Britta Jones, who first came to Gleanings as a weekly volunteer, will direct the program in 2023. "Our vision for the Summer Staff program is to see the lives of young people transformed by the love of Jesus," Britta said. "We absolutely cannot wait to see what God has planned for the summer ahead!"

"The summer staff program gave me the opportunity to grow my leadership skills in a safe environment, to be challenged, and to learn about discipleship. I grew closer to God through serving and relying more on the Holy Spirit. I got to see God move in the lives of others and in my own life." — Emily Warrington

If you are interested or know someone who is interested in applying for the Summer Staff program, please go to our website <https://gleanings.org/summerstaff> for more information.

Summer Staff Requirements

Age: 18-25 Cost: \$200 a month

Time: 6-week minimum commitment, although we highly recommend coming to serve for the entire summer

JOIN OUR TEAM!



NAMIBIA

COUNTRY REPORT



Where is Namibia? It is located on the south-west coast of Africa. It is one of the driest and most sparsely populated countries on earth.

Kalahari New Hope (KNH) ministers to the San tribe of Namibia, providing for their physical, educational, and spiritual needs. The San tribe is known as the Bushmen, the most marginalized social category in Namibia. Their difficulties are at the level of life and death circumstances. **KNH**, which is founded and run by Romanian missionaries, has come to their aid since 2009, and while living in their midst, they have come to understand the problems they face day after day.

"We are passionate to provide the maximum we can through this project of the mission," the director of the ministry, Ovidiu Pater, said. "We have understood from the beginning that you cannot preach to people who have not eaten for days."

The spiritual impact of the work of **KNH** is based on fulfilling the Great Commission, sharing the gospel, and reaching out and having an impact on the San tribe. All volunteers in the mission have this responsibility of fulfilling the Great Commission: to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Each month, the ministry has a Bible school meeting at the leader site, and about 50 San people attend. The leaders of these Bible school meetings have risen up from the tribe themselves, and they go out and preach. Villages are located anywhere from 80-100 miles away. "Now we are so happy because we see God lifting up the new generation of leaders who have become more devoted in the mission," Ovidiu said. "In many villages, they are the ones preaching. We give them **Gleanings** food, and they serve the church and minister."

Our partners at **KNH** write, "Seventy villages around us. In all these places we are giving them food because we know that they have too much hunger. We give them tools and wire, and then we train them to make their own garden. We give them food at each stage of work. Now what is really encouraging to us is that many villages have their own gardens and they are depending less and less on the mission for food. We want to assist them in a way where they learn to maintain their own gardens. We have been able to give some villages plows with donkeys or horses to help in planting season."

In addition to Bible meetings, **KNH** ministers to 250 children from local San tribe who attend school and receive the **Gleanings** soup. "We are so blessed. God is good. God is working," our partner said. Praise God for his goodness and love in Namibia among the Bushmen and the San tribe.



Director's Corner



*I heard a preacher say, "Apart from Him we can do nothing, and many Christians do nothing with Him!" It is a scary thought that we would know Jesus, experience salvation and His wonderful presence, yet not follow Jesus' instruction to do His work. It is not a mystery that Jesus calls us to care for others, especially for the needs of the ones lacking. The willingness to lay down our pride and serve with humility builds the foundation to become a fulfilled follower of Jesus. To come to **Gleanings** and pay to work makes no sense for a person who is self-focused, yet a spiritual person will gain great joy by simply scooping soup or fixing a broken tray in the hot California sun, knowing the food produced will be given in Jesus' name. Let's continue to use God's gifts to do something for His kingdom.*

Blessings to all you servants of the Lord.

Fritz Meier