

Common Cents[®]

creators of the **Penny Harvest[®]**

March 4, 2009

Dear Penny Harvest Student Leaders,

I am writing because I have an urgent challenge for you. There is a food pantry near your school that needs your help. The economic downturn has caused more moms and dads to turn to food pantries to feed their family and unfortunately, food pantries don't have enough food for everyone.

As a Penny Harvest Student Leader this year, your neighbors need you more than ever. There is a food pantry in your neighborhood that you can help. I urge you to discuss this need with your roundtable and consider contributing a small part of your Penny Harvest money. Making a donation is very easy: go to www.PennyHarvest.org/NYC right away and fill out the form with your roundtable name and how much you'd like to contribute (we recommend just 10% of your funds so you still have a lot left to help other causes). We'll match you with the food pantry nearest to your school and then send you the check so you can present to them.

If every Penny Harvest school (did you know that there are over 700 citywide?) gives a part of their Penny Harvest funds to their local food pantry, every single food pantry in the entire city - from Staten Island to the Bronx - can make sure that every adult and every child is still able to eat, even in this tough economic time.

A couple of weeks ago, President Obama passed an economic stimulus package called the "American Recovery and Reinvestment Act." With 790 billion dollars*, this act will help people and places in need: to fund schools, make the environment cleaner, and create jobs for people who are not working. But, your communities still need a lot of help. So, let's work



together to pass our own stimulus package - a “Penny Harvest Food Pantry Stimulus Package” - and keep our neighborhood food pantries running.

This is not the first time that Penny Harvesters like you from across the entire city have come together to help an urgent cause. In 2005, after Hurricane Katrina, Penny Harvesters donated **\$78,000** to help other children during the recovery. Even last year, students made **202 grants** to stop climate change.

Let’s all work together to pass the “The Penny Harvest Food Pantry Stimulus Package” now! There is no time to waste!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Teddy Gross". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Teddy" and the last name "Gross" clearly legible.

Teddy Gross
Executive Director
Common Cents

*That’s 790,000,000,000,000 pennies – can you figure out how many sacks that would fill up or how many pounds of pennies does that equal?

P.S. If you don’t believe we can do this, watch the video about how 11 Penny Harvest schools saved a food pantry in Brooklyn last year. Go to this website: http://www.ny1.com/content/top_stories/93855/children-harvest-pennies-for-good-causes/Default.aspx.

