

The Square Network

Aww Shucks

It was a Saturday and yet Associates from CNL Real Estate Advisors were hard at work, not in the office, but out on the farm. CNL volunteers teamed up with the Society of St. Andrews to do a little “gleaning.”

“As a team we met together and were looking for ways to give back to the community and thought that corn gleaning would be a hands-on approach to help those less fortunate and give people some great Zellwood corn,” Jonathan O’Connor said.

The Society of St. Andrews combs America’s farm lands after the harvest, collecting fresh fruits and vegetables that have been left behind and provides them to agencies serving the poor at no cost. Each year the society delivers 15 million pounds of fresh nutritious food through gleaning.

According to Michael Royal with CNL Real Estate Advisors, it’s not a bad way to spend the day. “We’re out here this morning gleaning some corn and finding leftovers and having a great time. We were singing some Michael Jackson songs a little while ago just to boost morale and hopefully we’ll get a lot of buckets filled today and hopefully we’ll be able to help provide some food for people who might not otherwise have it, so that’s our purpose.”

Across the board, CNL associates seemed to be enjoying themselves as they tirelessly pulled corn from the stalks. “We’re having a really good time out here,” said Steve Wortman. “I think most of the department is here and we’re trying to do two community service projects by the end of the year. This is a fun event to be out here on a beautiful morning, picking some corn and helping a not-for-profit, it’s a great thing to do.”

Volunteers were all smiles as they combed the fields and bucket after bucket of fresh Zellwood corn made its way to the truck, and eventually to those in need. “I’m having a great time out here,” Steve Shackelford commented. “CNL has a heart for these types of things. Just the opportunity to be able to participate in something like this is very gratifying and I’m just very appreciative for the opportunity to do something like this. That’s what it’s about, those of us with blessings need to figure out how to help where we can. In the end I’m just very thankful to be part of a company that does this sort of thing.”

From the Zellwood corn fields, this is the Square Network, signing off.