

**MO-KAN REGIONAL
FOOD BANK**

GIVE. BUILD. HOPE

Second Harvest is proud to share this special edition newsletter about our expansion project.

**Shown is the first Second Harvest building in 1981*

Thank you, from our CEO

Chad Higdon

On July 10, 2026, Second Harvest celebrated a ribbon cutting ceremony for its expansion project backed by stakeholders, the St. Joseph Chamber of Commerce, faith-based partners and the local business community.

Second Harvest's CEO, Chad Higdon expressed gratitude toward the State of Missouri and Department of Economic Development for the ARPA investment in the project. Additional ARPA investments for the project came from Buchanan, Andrew, Clinton, Nodaway, Gentry, Atchison, Holt and Worth counties in Missouri, Brown and Doniphan counties in Kansas, and the City of St. Joseph. He also recognized donors such as Altec Industries, Mosaic Life Care and Hillyard Companies, as well as the Al J. Mueller team, the design-build contractor which oversaw the construction of the project.

Chad commended the dedicated employees of the food bank, who had previously managed operations with limited cold storage and a single loading dock. Their hard work and commitment during the federal grant funding management and the construction process were crucial in preparing for daily operations in the new facility.

Joining Chad, Vera Nelson from Parents as Teachers in the North Daviess School District, highlighted the essential work of Second Harvest. Vera referenced an incident in 2025 when the gymnasium and cafeteria collapse forced the school to close early into the academic year. Vera emphasized the vital support Second Harvest provided, delivering much needed food product to families and children who were impacted by the disruption. The organization collaborated with school officials to deliver food boxes to households in Jameson and Coffey during this challenging time.

In the early 1980s, Second Harvest along with many other food banks across the country, was founded to meet the continuing needs of the hungry by cutting down on the millions of tons of usable food wasted each year. The same holds true today, as businesspeople, social service organizations and churches are as focused as ever on accomplishing the same goal.

"Usable food is still going to waste," said Higdon in his remarks provided to the audience. "The group of individuals from across the country that began working on establishing food banks in the late 1970s has made tremendous progress, as we now only have 60 million tons (120 billion pounds) of food going to waste in this country, less than half of what it was in 1982. But it's still too much. What is changing, is our capacity to rescue more of that food that can go to families in need. We now have more capacity to develop better solutions to current challenges in our community."

We are incredibly grateful for the support that came forward to make this project a reality. For decades Second Harvest has been committed to rescuing food to assist families in need throughout the region. With the investments made to the facility, we are well positioned to continue to meet the local needs in the communities we serve.



We now have more capacity to develop better solutions to current challenges in our community.
-Chad Higdon

Second Harvest History



September 1981

Second Harvest starts as Harvesters Food Bank of St. Joseph and distributes 55,400 pounds of food. In 1982 the name is changed to the MO-KAN Regional Food Bank.



1991

Over 1.3 million pounds of food are distributed at the food bank. Over the next few years the need for a food bank is even greater as St. Joseph sees flooding and increased unemployment when two major plants shut down.



1994

The MO-KAN Regional Food Bank moves to 915 Douglas Street. 2 million pounds are distributed, despite USDA commodities being cut by nearly 70%. 5 counties in the service area saw an increase in unemployment.



1997

To combat food waste, the Harvest House was established, serving around 500,000 pounds at its peak.



2000

The food bank rebrands to America's Second Harvest of Greater St. Joseph. The next year over 3 million pounds will be distributed. In the next few years the first warehouse renovations will take place and a community garden will start.



2010

Second Harvest rebrands to Second Harvest Community Food Bank. 2011 is the 30th anniversary and nearly 4.4 million pounds are distributed throughout the region.



2016

The Fresh Mobile Pantry program rolls out, bringing fresh, healthy goods directly to neighboring communities. Second Harvest is currently running 25 to 30 mobile pantries a month in 2026, within every county in our service area!



2020

The Covid-19 pandemic strikes and Second Harvest distributes a record high of 14 million pounds of food to neighbors who are affected. Trucks full of perishable donations are being turned away due to low capacity space at the food bank.



2024

In response to the increase of need over the past few years, Second Harvest breaks ground on an 11,500 square foot cooler and high dock expansion.

IT STARTED WITH A PLAN...

September 2021

The final rendering of the proposed expansion included two new high docks and a covered agency pickup area on the outside.



CREAL CLARK & SEIFERT
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THE PROJECT

Our Vision:

A hunger-free Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas.

Our Mission:

Our mission is to provide nourishment and hope throughout Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas by engaging the region in the fight to end hunger.

The goal was to raise \$3.5M toward the Give-Build-Hope campaign, a two-year campaign focused on expansion and sustaining operations.

Complete Expansion Project

- 11,500 additional square feet of cold storage and high dock capacity along with a loading and unloading area dedicated to better support Agency Partner pickups and receiving local donations.

Sustain Current Operations

- Support food insecure families by supporting our current network of 45 Agency Partners with food resources.
- Provide 25 monthly Fresh Mobile Pantry distributions throughout our service area.
- Nourish children through investments in Backpack Buddies, Campus Cupboards, No Hunger Summer, and Kate's Cafe.
- Provide eligible senior adults with monthly senior box distributions.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

 816.364.3663

Give • Build • Hope

GIVE today. **BUILD** tomorrow's **HOPE**.



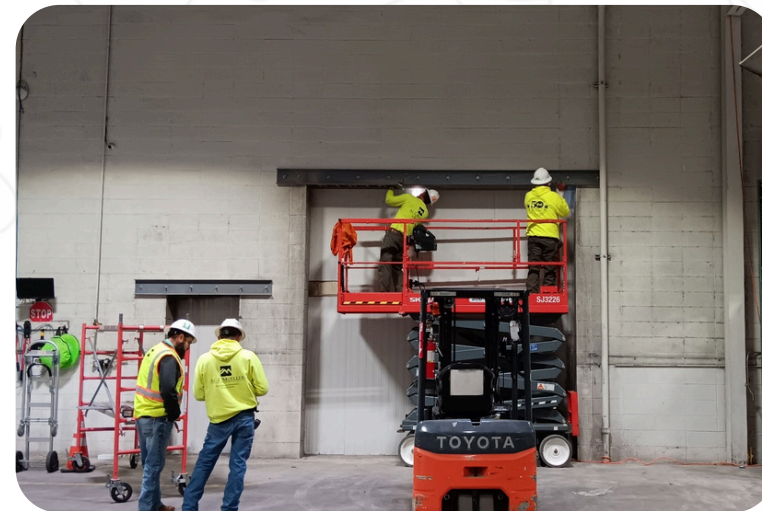
On March 22, 2024, Second Harvest board members and over 150 partners from across the region met for an official groundbreaking event. It was quite a 'cool' morning!



Throughout summer, construction on the new addition progressed. Concrete was poured, walls were built, and the new docks were added onto the exterior.



Guest speakers Roger Lenander (The Crossing Nutrition Center), Christel Gollnick (Chair of the Second Harvest Board), Kim Froemsdorf (Department of Economic Development), Mike Moore (Altec), and Lannie Ellis (Open Door Food Kitchen) shared the importance of the project.



The new cooler door was built onto the existing building. This door will allow forklifts to easily maneuver between the existing and added warehouse spaces. The construction crew was hard at work throughout the winter, to ensure the project would be completed quickly.



Second Harvest staff administered tours for those who attended the groundbreaking, including showcasing the limited cooler space the food bank was working with and explained why the need for the expansion was important.



Supporters had the opportunity to visit during the early stages of construction. Here, the new high dock area can be seen, where Agency Partners and delivery drivers will have a more dedicated space for donations and pickups. Behind this wall is private office space for the Second Harvest warehouse team.

THE PROCESS



When the walls went up, it finally started to feel real. All of the hard work and planning led to this moment!



The new space with racking installed.



Staff demonstrating how to safely use the new lift at the dock. The lift makes it so our warehouse team can safely meet the height of each delivery truck.



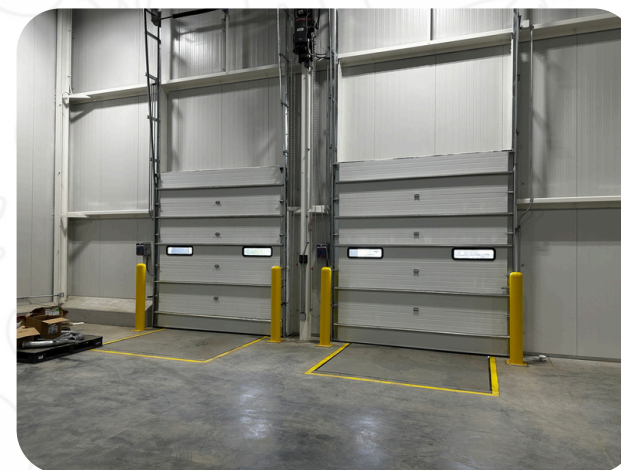
There is plenty of space in the new parking lot for drivers to maneuver about without worrying about lot traffic.



The new office space for our Logistics team leaders. Previously the team was spread out at desks throughout the open warehouse. Now they have private space to take calls and conduct business.



The old cooler only fit 12 pallet spaces. With the new addition, we can hold over 10 times as much refrigerated product.



The two docks that were built to accept deliveries. With the added docks, we have eliminated a bottleneck with incoming and outbound deliveries.



Our first delivery in the new space!

THANK YOU!

We have been excited to share this project with the people who support us, celebrate us, and fuel our mission to end hunger. The future is bright and we can't wait to continue serving our community for years to come. As we embark on this new chapter, we extend our deepest gratitude to each one of you. Your support and enthusiasm have been the backbone of our journey, and it is with your encouragement that we are able to achieve our goals.

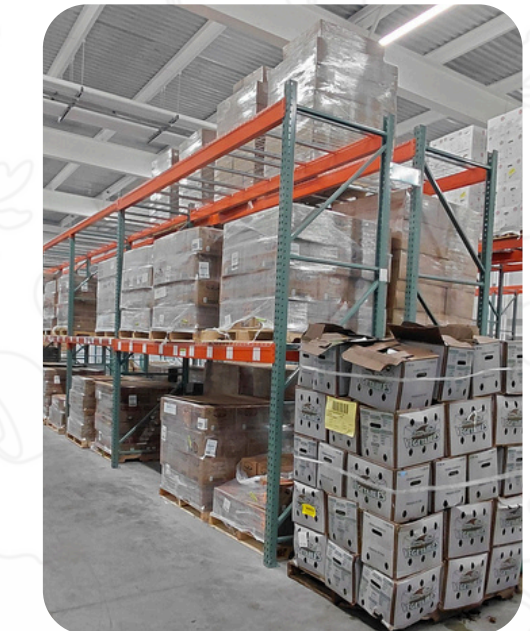
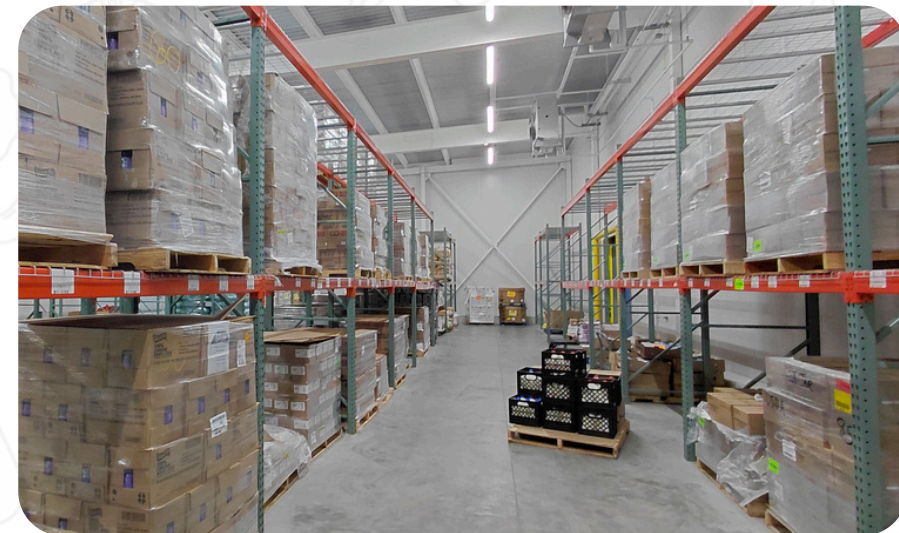
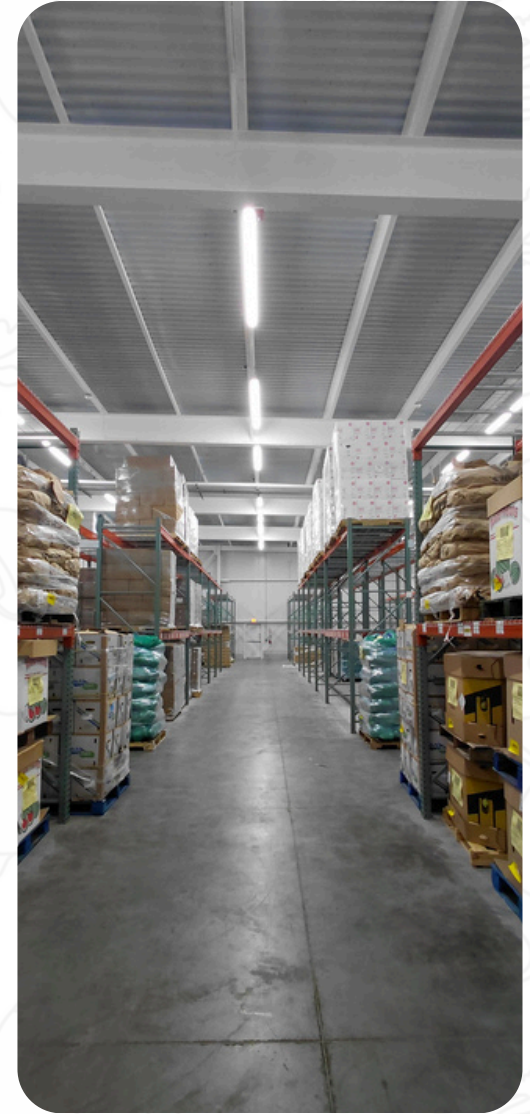
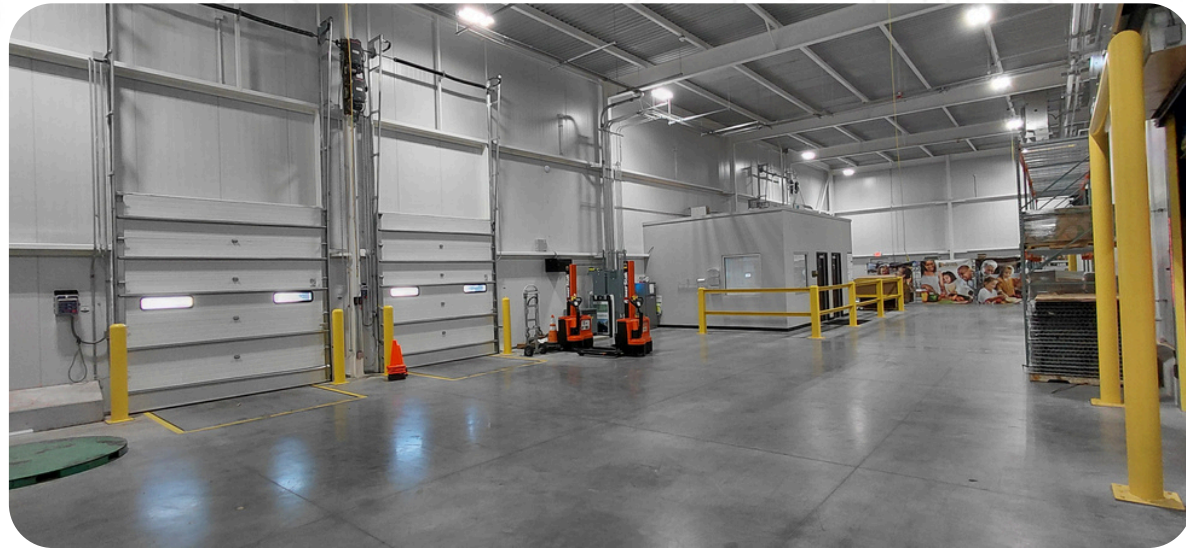
Together, we are not just building a community, but nurturing a legacy of HOPE.

Here's to the adventures ahead and the countless neighbors we will serve along the way!



The grand opening was held July 10th, 2026.

THE FINAL SPACE



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS AND SUPPORTERS WHO MADE THIS POSSIBLE.

Thank you to Al J Mueller, the State of Missouri, the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Altec and the Styslinger Foundation, Mosaic Life Care, Hillyard Companies, Commerce Bank, Missouri American Water, News-Press Gazette, Nor-Am, US Bank, Land O'Lakes, Leah Spratt Charitable Trust, National Philanthropic Trust, Sunderland Foundation, Hegeman For Missouri, Seventh Day Adventist Church Food Panty & Thrift Shop, South St. Joseph Progressive Association, City of Saint Joseph - Office of the Mayor, and the Commissioners from Atchison MO, Brown, Buchanan, Andrew, Doniphan, Gentry, Livingston, Nodaway, Worth, & Clinton Counties.



To set up a tour of the new facility, call us at 816.364.3663!

Or scan the QR code to help feed your neighbors in need!

