

WINTER 2023 Community Notes

A PUBLICATION OF SECOND HARVEST
COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

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Second Harvest Community Food Bank
is a member of Feeding America and
Feeding Missouri.

**Your gift supplies food for
families in need across
Northwest Missouri and
Northeast Kansas.**

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OUR MISSION

To provide nourishment and hope to the hungry while engaging and empowering the region in the fight to end hunger.

OUR VISION

A hunger-free Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas.

Newsletter is produced by Second Harvest Communications Department. For questions, please contact Mackenzie Osborn at 816.364.3663 ext. 219.

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Letter from the CEO

Dear friends of Second Harvest,



In March of 2020, Second Harvest was on track to distribute seven million pounds of nutritious food for our fiscal year ending in June. As we all know, the global pandemic hit and families were quickly and severely impacted. Our efforts surged and we distributed ten million pounds in total – three million pounds more than anticipated in just under three months.

While 2020 can feel like a long time ago, the impacts – such as ensuing supply chain issues, workforce challenges, and inflation – have lingered. The need for food continues to mirror what we experienced at the height of the pandemic.

Here at Second Harvest, we have seen freight cost, food cost, maintenance, repairs, and personnel benefits rise. Gas has risen from an average of \$2.12 to \$3.75 over the last two years. We've had to make tough choices moving forward to make sure we're doing everything we can with what we have available, but there are still over 40,000 food insecure individuals in our area that need fed.

As we gear up for this spring's Annual Fund campaign, families are relying on our services just to get by. Food should never have to be a trade-off for paying utility bills, getting medication, or filling the gas tank. **With your help and support we can continue to meet individuals where**

they are – whether that's a short-term need for families hit with an unexpected car repair, or long-term assistance for seniors living on fixed income. Whatever leads someone to look for food assistance, we are there to help.


 Chad Higdon
 CEO of Second Harvest
 Community Food Bank

In 2020, we distributed ten million pounds of food in total, thanks to your support!



Your Gift Brings *Hope* to Those in Need

Second Harvest Community Food Bank is able to help bring food to tables because of you. YOU provide HOPE to those in need. YOU bring nourishment to hearts all over the region. Your donation is the primary reason we are able to continue reaching toward our mission, so we THANK YOU.

As we move into our 2023 Annual Fund Drive, we look forward to partnering with you again in the fight to end hunger. Consider joining our monthly giving program and becoming a Hunger Hero today. For every \$10 you donate, Second Harvest is able to provide up to 30 meals. That's a whole month of dinners! For \$199, you can sponsor one Backpack Buddy student for an ENTIRE school year.

We know there are plenty of organizations asking for your hard-earned money after the holidays. Rest assured that your thoughtful, tax-deductible gift will help our hungry neighbors, people you may pass by on a daily basis.



96% of all resources donated to Second Harvest go directly to food acquisition, distribution, and programs.



EQUALS



\$5 = 15 meals
\$10 = 30 meals
\$20 = 60 meals
\$50 = 150 meals
\$100 = 300 meals

Presenting Sponsor:



Staff Spotlight, *Meet Debra*

Meet Debra Ramey, a Community Outreach Coordinator at Second Harvest, concentrated on Fresh Mobile Pantries. Deb has been at Second Harvest for 11 years and is very thankful for the opportunities it has provided.



Q What does a day in your position look like?

A I work with supervisors, warehouse staff, drivers, our development team, and Fresh Mobile Pantry contacts to make sure communication is open regarding any changes. In the winter, calls could start as early as 5:30a.m.! I also contact referrals for the GSNAP program and provide outreach once a month at 3 correctional facilities in Missouri, assisting inmates with SNAP applications.

Q What's the best lesson you've learned from working at Second Harvest?

A Second Harvest is a family. We don't just show up for a job, we encompass the true passion of ending hunger in our communities.

We thank Deb for a GREAT 11 years with us!



Food for the Holidays



When you picture a holiday feast, do you imagine a large turkey, tons of sides filling the table, and more desserts than you could possibly finish? For many families in our area, the image of a Thanksgiving dinner may not be the same as ours. In fact, it may be a major cause of stress in the months leading up to the holidays. Do they keep their family warm, or fed this month?

That's why it's important for Second Harvest to be able to provide for families during these hard times. We aim to alleviate the stress of finding cheap holiday items by hosting Turkey Day and Holiday Express distributions throughout our region. This past November and December, Second Harvest provided holiday boxes to St. Joseph, Chillicothe, and Leavenworth. For the first time we handed out ham for the Holiday Express giveaway, which was a pleasant surprise to those in the community! At the voucher sign-up, many families were excited to have an option this year. The distributions totaled in 1,350 turkeys and 500 hams being handed out, with the leftovers being distributed to area school programs.



Presenting Sponsor:



2023 Mark Your Calendars

February

- 10 - Annual Fund Drive Kickoff
- 16-26 - St. Joseph Restaurant Week
- 20 - Presidents Day (CLOSED)

May

- 13 - Stamp Out Hunger
- 15-21 - National Volunteer Week
- 29 - Memorial Day (CLOSED)

June

- Canned Film Festival Starts
- NHS Starts

July

- Canned Film Festival
- No Hunger Summer
- 4 - 4th of July (CLOSED)

August

- Canned Film Festival Ends
- No Hunger Summer Ends

September

- Hunger Action Month
- Corporate Food Fight
- 4 - Labor Day (CLOSED)

