Read inside about how one youth center becoming a Partner Agency has impacted an entire community in Livingston County, MO.
This past year has been amazing here at Second Harvest Community Food Bank. Through support from our generous donors and community grants, we were able to distribute over 5.5 million pounds of food to those in need. Over 50% was distributed through our Partner Agencies and the rest was distributed through our Direct Service Programs.

In keeping with our mission, Second Harvest has set a campaign goal of $650,000 for 2018. For 37 years Second Harvest Community Food Bank has been building a hunger-free Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas.

Each year Second Harvest focuses its work on four primary initiatives: Nourishing Children, Nourishing Seniors, Nourishing Families and Nourishing Neighborhoods. Working closely with our 100 Partner Agencies, Second Harvest serves over 51,000 food insecure individuals, 20% of which are children and over 2,000 seniors, in our nineteen-county area.

We know that you can donate your hard-earned money to any number of charitable organizations. That’s why it is important that you know your donation is being used wisely. Of all resources donated to Second Harvest, 96% goes directly to food acquisition, distribution and programs. Second Harvest has earned its sixth consecutive 4-star rating with Charity Navigator and is the only accredited non-profit in the region with the Better Business Bureau.

Be assured that your thoughtful, tax-deductible gift will help the food insecure individuals within your surrounding communities, ‘Give Where You Live.’

For more information, contact Michelle Fagerstone, CDO at 816-364-3663 ext. 218 or visit our website at www.ourcommunityfoodbank.org.
The moment you walk into this facility you can feel and hear the excitement. Children are playing in their designated areas for the day, as they all anticipate the warm meal they are about to eat. One child asks the former Center Manager, Dan Savage, “What’s for supper tonight, Mr. Savage?” Dan goes over the evening menu with the child, bringing a joyful, excited smile to the girl’s face. She tells Dan, “I love chicken nuggets!”

Seeing the need for a place in which the youth of the community could come interact with one another, the North Missouri Center for Youth & Families started the process of becoming a Second Harvest Partner Agency back in 2013. The Center was fully established as a partner the following year providing a meal and activities for local children each day after school.

“When we first opened we started out serving around 30 kids,” Dan said. “Within two and a half months, we were at our capacity, serving 50 kids a day.”

Dan, who is a member of the Second Harvest Board, also knew that the partnership with Second Harvest was much needed in the area to obtain and distribute nutritious food. By partnering with Second Harvest, The North Missouri Center for Youth & Families receives food for free or at substantially discounted rates through our distribution center. This also allows the center to use their limited budget elsewhere for youth programs, building maintenance and other internal needs.

“Knowing that Second Harvest is taking care of the food makes a big difference,” Dan says. “It allows us to provide the kids with items such as milk, which would be a big cost for us.”

The benefits for the center don’t stop there. Dan says that a big weight is lifted off his shoulders by Second Harvest handling ‘a lot’ of the paperwork and transporting the food to the center. By not having to focus on the paperwork, Dan and his staff can come into the center and focus on the children and their needs.

Since Second Harvest delivers food to the center, Dan never has to worry about not having needed items for the children. He simply places an order online with Second Harvest and receives it in the coming weeks.

“With Second Harvest handling the paper work and menu planning, it is a big relief,” Dan said. “The benefits of being a partner allows our staff to focus on the kids.”

Second Harvest and its Partner Agencies share a mission: to help feed the hungry within the communities they serve.
Giving is Receiving
Senior Box Program

Second Harvest Community Food Bank serves over 51,000 food insecure individuals within a 19-county area. Of those individuals, one in five are seniors the age of 60 or older. One program that Second Harvest utilizes to combat senior food insecurity is the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) or the ‘Senior Box Program’.

This program serves over 1,219 food insecure seniors by supplementing their diets with nutritious food provided by USDA. Joyce Turner of St. Joseph, MO is one of the 1,219 seniors that receive this monthly food box. Besides receiving a monthly box, Joyce has taken her involvement with the Second Harvest CSFP to another level by volunteering to deliver the boxes to other seniors.

“I know it helps me from month to month be able to feed myself,” Joyce said. “I also like to help the others in my building that need the food.”

In 2005, Joyce got involved with distributing the senior boxes within her building, St. Francis Apartments. She began by checking people in when they came to pick up their box, but after a while Joyce noticed that some seniors needed to have their boxes delivered to their apartments. “Although everyone was getting their box brought to the building, not everyone had the mobility to pick their box up and get it to their room,” Joyce stated.

“I became a hall monitor,” Joyce said, “I go around and check on everyone to make sure they don’t need anything or need their box brought to them.”

Joyce knows firsthand what this supplemental nutrition program does for seniors. She no longer has to make the choice of paying her medications or eating during some months, allowing her to give back however she can to her peers. When asked why she continues to help with the program Joyce simply replied, “I like the public and I like knowing that I am helping others that need it.” Because to give to another is to receive.

For more information about the Commodity Supplemental Program, or to sign up to volunteer for the program, please visit the Second Harvest website, www.ourcommunityfoodbank.org.