

Harvesters – The Community Food Network Key Staff



Karen Haren, President & CEO

Over the past 13 years, Karen Haren has successfully positioned Harvesters, this area's only food bank, as the leading hunger-relief organization in northwestern Missouri and northeastern Kansas. Her expertise in nonprofit management and food banking, along with her passion to feed the hungry, has paved the way for Harvesters to strategically address current food banking challenges and opportunities.

Karen has been named the 2010 Nonprofit Professional of the Year by Non Profit Connect. The award recognizes her depth of experience in the nonprofit field, as well as her leadership, creativity and personal commitment to philanthropy. Karen also received the 2009 Executive Director of the Year award from Feeding America, the nation's food bank network. The award honors the leader of a member food bank who has contributed an extraordinary effort to the network's viability and momentum.

Karen has been involved in hunger relief and hunger advocacy for 24 years. She served on the Harvesters' board of directors for 11 years, including three years as board president. In 1999, Karen was named Harvesters' executive director, and in 2007 she was named president & CEO. Prior to her staff positions with Harvesters, she spent more than 20 years in nonprofit agency management in organizations serving youth. Karen grew up in Montana and graduated from Chapman University in Orange, California with a BA in home economics. She has a MBA from Rockhurst University in Kansas City.

Karen was named a "Local Hero" by Ingram's Magazine in 2008 and received the Herman and Dorothy Johnson Award for Outstanding Public Service presented by the Missouri Association of Social Welfare (MASW) in May of 2009.

She is a member of Rotary Club 13, Early Bird Toastmasters and the Central Exchange. She serves on the US Bank Community Advisory Board, the Nontraditional Careers for Women Advisory Board for Johnson County Community College and the Charity Advisory Committee for the Better Business Bureau. She serves on the National Advisory Council and the Technology Governance Board for Feeding America. She is an Advisory Board member for the Society of St Andrew Western Headquarters and is a founding member of the Hartsook Companies Kansas City Advisory Council. She also serves as president of the Missouri Food Bank Association. Karen serves on the Rockhurst University Board of Trustees

Norm Bowers, Chief Operating Officer

Norm Bowers joined Harvesters in 1999 as director of administration. In 2000 he was named Harvesters' director of operations and in 2007, Norm was named Harvesters' chief operations officer. Prior to joining Harvesters, Norm served as executive vice president and partner for the Robstan Group, Inc. a multi trade association management firm. Norm previously ran his own public accounting firm, N.S. Bowers and Co.

Norm attained a BBA in accounting from the University of Iowa and benefits from graduate work at Park University, UMKC, MSU, and KU. His community involvement includes board membership with the Santa Fe Trail Council of Girl Scouts, Heartland Council of Camp Fire, and board chairman of the National Kidney Foundation of KS and Western MO from 1988 to 1990. Norm currently sits on the board of directors for the Blue Valley Association and represents them on the board of the Kansas City Industrial Council.

Joanna Sebelien, Chief Resource Officer

Joanna Sebelien is the chief resource officer at Harvesters, responsible for the resource areas of money, volunteer time, food and media. Prior to Harvesters she was employed for 16 years as assistant vice chancellor of university advancement and executive director of the alumni association at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Previously she was regional director and national director of development for Camp Fire, Inc. Sebelien graduated with honors from Boston College and holds a masters degree from Central Michigan University. Sebelien is a member of Rotary 13, The Greater Kansas City Council on Philanthropy, the Mid-America Planned Giving Council, and an alumni member of the Centurians of the KC Chamber of Commerce.