

# Volunteer Opportunities

*July through December 2010*

**AmeriCorps at Harvesters - Getting Things Done!** AmeriCorps, often called the domestic PeaceCorps, engages thousands of committed citizens every year to meet critical community needs in education, public safety, health and the environment. Members fight poverty nationwide and help build sustainable change through their roles with nonprofit organizations. From September 1<sup>st</sup> through August 31<sup>st</sup>, AmeriCorps at Harvesters offers you the opportunity to make a huge impact not only in your life, but in your community, by helping provide food and nutrition education to people throughout our service area. Members will serve approximately 40 hours per week, focusing on projects and programs that emphasize direct community outreach. Positions are available in Food Drives, Volunteer Services, Nutrition Education, and the Volunteer Outreach Center. Benefits include a living allowance, healthcare coverage, and the opportunity to earn an education award of \$5,350. For more information or to apply, visit [www.americorps.gov](http://www.americorps.gov)

**Youth Ambassador Program** Are you a high school student interested in educating the community about hunger relief and getting your fellow students involved with hands-on service activities? We are looking for **students in grades 10 – 12, with a minimum 3.0 GPA**, who possess strong leadership skills, enjoy volunteering and are passionate about helping those who are hungry. If this describes you, consider applying to become a Youth Ambassador! Applicants must be able to complete **a minimum of 50 hours** of volunteer service per year, which might include organizing a food drive at school, writing an article on local hunger issues for the school paper, helping to plan and staff a special event, coordinating a service learning project, or bringing in a group to sort and repackage food in our VOC. We can provide documentation of all volunteer hours and responsibilities – great for school or resumes! **Application deadline is July 19th.**

**Adult Ambassador Program** Harvesters Ambassadors are critical to engaging our community on issues of hunger. You can help us reach out to corporations, schools, churches, and civic groups through speaking engagements, special events, and facility tours. This is a **flexible time commitment**, and we provide all training and resource materials. Inquire to receive more information and an application. Orientations are held semi-annually.

**Kansas City Renaissance Festival** The Renaissance Festival is again offering Harvesters a great opportunity to collect food over the **Labor Day weekend, September 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>; as well as September 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> and October 2-3.** Festival patrons receive a 2-for-1 admission to the event with the donation of five canned food items. Volunteers will work 2 or 4 hour shifts, from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. each day to collect the food at the gate – and then receive FREE admittance to the festival on the day they volunteer!

**VOC** Sort and repackage donated product in our Volunteer Outreach Center (VOC). Must be six years or older to participate; students 15 years old and younger need to be accompanied by an adult. Families are welcome! Also a great idea for your corporate team, service club, scout troop, class, etc. **Monday through Saturday, from 8:30 am - noon and 1 - 4 pm. On Tuesdays and Thursdays only, shifts are available between 4 - 8 pm. Occasional Sundays as staff and product availability permits.**

**Operation Bread Basket** Volunteers are needed for the twice-yearly Operation Bread Basket food drive, sponsored by Associated Wholesale Grocers (AWG) and the nine area SunFresh grocery stores. The next drives will be held **November 6-7, and 13-14, with two-hour volunteer shifts available: 9 – 11 a.m., 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., or 1 – 3 p.m.** Volunteers will staff the grocery stores during the designated timeframes and ask customers if they'd like to purchase an extra canned good or two for Harvesters.

**Harvesters needs you to help us end hunger in our community. Call 816.929.3090 or email [volunteer@harvesters.org](mailto:volunteer@harvesters.org) to sign up and start making a difference.**

**Harvesters Community Demonstration Garden** Green thumbs not required! Here's a great opportunity for gardening enthusiasts every **Saturday from April through September** (we are closed April 3<sup>rd</sup>, May 29<sup>th</sup>, and July 3<sup>rd</sup>) from **9 a.m. – noon**. All planting, watering, weeding and harvesting is done under the guidance of a Master Gardener.

**Harvesters “Ala Carte” Team** We partner with businesses, sports teams, and community organizations who want to host a Harvesters Food & Fund Drive at their events. Volunteers have the opportunity to personally thank donors and help raise public awareness of our mission – plus they often enjoy special benefits at these events. Join the “ala carte” team and you will **get first choice to represent Harvesters at concerts, games, special events and festivals, retail and restaurant establishments**. This is a flexible time commitment, shifts are usually 2 or 3 hours on Saturdays or Sundays, or on weekday evenings. Sign up with your friends or family!

**Project STRENGTH Delivery** Project STRENGTH is an adult nutrition and cooking program where each participant also receives a 20-pound bag of groceries. Volunteer drivers are needed to load and deliver the prepared bags to approximately 3 – 6 agencies in Kansas City, Liberty and Grandview. This position requires the ability to lift 40 pounds and a current driver's license. Deliveries are scheduled **Monday through Friday, starting at 8:30 am**. Volunteer should plan on a **3-5 hour commitment, one day per week, for 8 weeks**. Can't make a weekly commitment? On-call drivers are also needed to support our regularly scheduled volunteers. Deliveries will be made using a Harvesters vehicle and all directions are provided.

**Check-Out Hunger** Volunteers are needed for this community-wide scannable coupon promotion, sponsored by the Retail Grocers' Association. Volunteers are assigned individual grocery stores and are responsible for coordinating all aspects of the Check-Out Hunger initiative, including contacting the store manager, working with and creating excitement amongst the store employees, and replenishing materials at the store, generally once per week. The campaign runs from the **first week of November through the first week of January**. Training is provided – it's a fun and easy volunteer opportunity that can be done on your own time – sign up early, and you can probably “adopt” the grocery store where you shop each week!

**Food & Fund Drive** Host a food & fund drive in your neighborhood, place of business, school or community organization. Food & fund drives are great fun, especially when friendly competition between participants is encouraged! Don't have room for a food drive barrel or have time to make a special trip to the grocery store? Host a **virtual food drive** for your workplace or organization! It's a convenient, hassle-free, 24/7 way to help Harvesters with the click of a mouse! Go to [www.harvesters.org](http://www.harvesters.org) and click on “Give Food” to download our step-by-step guides and “how to” kits.

**Project STRENGTH Food Drive & Volunteer Activity** Your organization, company or neighborhood group can help us provide 20-pound bags of seasonal food items to our Project Strength participants. This is a great volunteer activity suitable for kids of all ages, or for organizations and companies that would like to organize a volunteer project at their location. We supply all materials (a list of needed items, grocery sacks, packing boxes, recipe cards, and personalized “*THIS SACK WAS PACKED BY* \_\_\_\_\_” slips) while your volunteers collect and pack the requested food items.

**Office Support** Help Harvesters' administrative efforts! We're looking for a volunteer willing to commit at least **one morning or afternoon per week** (approximately three hours) to help managers in departments such as Fund Development, Agency Services, Community Outreach, and Volunteer Services with clerical duties, **Monday – Friday, between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm**. We can really use your skills for assembling mailings, data entry, database management, filing, phone assistance, etc.!

**Harvesters feeds neighbors in need.**



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Learn how you can help end hunger in our community at [www.harvesters.org](http://www.harvesters.org)