Network Agency Conferences
Hundreds gather to learn and share

Thank you to everyone who attended our agency conferences in Kansas City and Topeka! We had two informative and engaging days that included educational sessions, resources, and networking. We know some of you didn’t have the chance to attend, and others wanted to attend more than the three sessions you were able to, so here are some highlights from the conference. To access any of the full presentations, please visit www.harvesters.org/Agencies/Agency-Conference.

Harvesters Express
This session provided tips to enhance your experience with Harvesters’ online ordering system. To safeguard order integrity, please be cautious about moving your order date out because this may affect the expiration date on a product.

In addition, be careful when opening and editing an order multiple times because this may cause communication issues with Harvesters’ internal inventory application. Before submitting your order, be sure all product is added and then verify in order management that all items requested were acknowledged. Order issues may still occur, but Harvesters’ team is constantly working to provide solutions.

Legislative Advocacy and the Upcoming Farm Bill
Advocating for federal nutrition programs, particularly SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) is important. SNAP funding is authorized through the Farm Bill, which is moving through Congress right now. Agencies are encouraged to contact lawmakers to stop cuts and structural changes to this important program.

Produce Safety
It’s important to store and transport produce safely. This presentation discussed what you need to know about mold or redistribution and offered good tips (how to help educate guests on what items are, what is still edible although maybe not pretty, like brown bananas). Want to learn more? Harvesters has a Produce Safety webinar on the Resource Section of the agency website that has the complete discussion with some examples from pantries in our network.

What to Expect When You are Expecting... A Monitoring Visit
Agency monitoring visits are an opportunity for increased communication and positive interaction for both Harvesters staff and the agency partner. If the agency is not prepared, the visit can feel overwhelming and frustrating. The keys to a positive visit are advanced preparation, an open mind and attention to detail. (continued on p. 3)
Hello Agency Partners,

It was good to see so many of you at our recent Agency Conferences! I enjoyed talking with you and learning about the many great things happening in our network to fight hunger and feed hungry families and seniors.

Our efforts are still much needed! New hunger numbers released this spring show 1 in 7, or 353,380 individuals (13.9 percent), is food insecure in our service area. That's higher than the national number of 12.9 percent. In children, 1 in 6, or 108,240 children (17.5 percent), in our service area is food insecure.

Although, food insecurity rates have declined in recent years, the rates are still at higher levels than before the recession. And, despite the fall in food insecurity rates, the need per food-insecure person is increasing. Read more about the 2018 Map the Meal Gap study at: www.harvesters.org/Learn/How-Many-are-Hungry.

As we conclude one fiscal year and start a new one, I want to thank you for your continued partnership and your ongoing commitment to providing the best service you can to people in need in this region.

Sincerely,

Valerie Nicholson-Watson
President and CEO
Harvesters—The Community Food Network

Join the Agency Advisory Council

Harvesters is seeking applications from agency partners who would like to represent their agency and their peers on the Network Agency Advisory Council. The commitment involves serving a two-year term, attending quarterly meetings, and giving practical input on operational aspects of agency capacity, interests, and issues. All agencies are invited to apply. Selections will be made to ensure there is adequate representation from our full service area, program types, and program sizes.

Please apply by August 10. Selections will be made by August 24.
To apply, go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/AACApplication2018

New Agency Partner Handbook

The Agency Partner Handbook has been updated and overhauled to be a reflection of the expectations between Harvesters and you, the Agency Partner. The Agency Handbook will familiarize your agency with the policies and procedures of being a successful Harvesters partner agency, connect you with helpful resources, and give you ideas to grow programs as we work together to end hunger in this region. Don't forget about the webinar on the Agency Handbook on June 28. An email was sent including details on how to join. Call Customer Care if you need that information. The Agency Handbook will be posted online after the webinar.
Managing the Volunteer Experience
Volunteer engagement is about the volunteer experience. When creating a volunteer opportunity, you need to make sure you have the agency structure in place to support your volunteers. In addition, think about all the potential places you can recruit volunteers. When your volunteers arrive, what kind of orientation do you provide and what kind of ongoing training do you offer volunteers? Finally, record keeping is important to report out results of your awesome volunteers. Not only does it support a case for volunteer program funding, but it can be helpful in applying for grant funding for your agency.

Intersections of Hunger and Health
Hunger is a health issue. Consistent access to healthy food can help manage chronic illnesses, or perhaps prevent them altogether. Harvesters is pursuing innovative partnerships and strategic approaches in the community as we work at the intersection of hunger and health. This presentation discussed why Harvesters is shifting program models to focus more on overall health and client stability (beyond only emergency food assistance). Agencies heard how they can partner with healthcare settings and professionals, as well as other community stakeholders.

Healthy Pantry Partnership
Taryn Glidewell discussed the two ways Harvesters’ Nutrition Department can help an agency receive tailored consultation, specific to the agency’s health and nutrition needs. The Long Term Option will run from January – July 2019 and members of the Nutrition Department can come to an agency site weekly to consult. The Short Term Option will have three separate options to sign up: one in the fall, one in early 2019 and another in spring of 2019 – watch your email for information on how to apply.

Beginning Grant Writing
This session addressed how to determine if you qualify for a grant, where to look for grant opportunities and what information you need to have as you write a grant application. Common items needed are a strong case statement and a list of possible outcomes from the grant. Common documents organizations need in grant writing include a list of board of directors, IRS determination letter, audit/financial statements, letters of support, and an organization/project budget. For more highlights from conference sessions, visit www.harvesters.org/Agencies/Agency-Conference.
Save the Date

SEPTEMBER

OUR COMMUNITY CAN FOOD DRIVE
Rally your supporters to donate food during the Our Community CAN food drive this September. www.harvesters.org/-Give-Food/Our-Community-Can-Agencies

CIRCLE OF HOPE SEPTEMBER 20
Join us for a luncheon to celebrate the contributions of agencies, groups and individuals in the fight against hunger. www.harvesters.org/COH
For a full list of events, visit: www.harvesters.org

HUNGER IN THE NEWS
Read these stories and stay up-to-date on the latest hunger news at: harvesters.org/agencies/hungernews

How Work Requirements for Social Security Programs Impact People in Need, PBS
50-something Food Stamp Recipients Could Face Tough Job Search under Proposed Rules, McClatchy DC
USDA Brainstorms Food Waste Solutions with Stakeholders, Waste Dive

Summer’s Bounty
Common Vegetables Available in the Summer
It won’t be long before delicious vegetables are available in summer gardens. Three common summer vegetables are cherry tomatoes, cucumbers and zucchini. Here’s a great recipe for zucchini.

Stuffed Zucchini
Ingredients:

- 4 medium zucchini
- 2 Tablespoons olive oil or canola oil
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1/2 green pepper, chopped
- 1 large carrot, chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, peeled and minced
- 1/2 teaspoon oregano
- 2 thyme sprigs (or 1/2 teaspoon dried thyme)
- 1 egg
- 1/2 teaspoon pepper
- 1 (7 oz) can of roasted red peppers
- 1/4 cup slivered almonds
- 1/2 cup feta cheese (or substitute mozzarella, Gouda, Swiss, etc.)

Directions:
Preheat oven to 375°F. Wash zucchini and put in a pot of cold water (do not remove skin or ends). On stove, bring water to a boil and cook zucchini until tender, 10-15 minutes. Meanwhile, on the stove, heat oil in a large skillet on medium-high heat. Add chopped onion, green pepper, and carrots until soft (5 or so minutes) then add minced garlic, oregano, and thyme and sauté for 2 minutes. Set aside in a medium bowl to cool slightly. When zucchini has softened, remove from hot water with tongs and blanch in cold water (put cold water in another bowl) until zucchini is cool to touch. Wipe off zucchini and slice lengthwise in half, remove the inside of the zucchini and place in bowl with onion and pepper mixture, you are left with zucchini “boats.” Place boats on a baking pan. Add an egg to the onion, pepper, and zucchini mixture and mix together. Put mixture in the zucchini boats and top with pepper, roasted red peppers, almonds and cheese. Bake for 20-30 minutes or until cheese is bubbly.