Agencies Receive Recognition

Harvesters’ 2017 Circle of Hope Award Recipients

Harvesters has so many wonderful agencies that it is hard to pick just a few to recognize each year at the Circle of Hope Awards ceremony. The Circle of Hope refers to the common interest between Harvesters and its agencies, volunteers and donors in alleviating hunger in the 26 counties served by Harvesters.

Some of the 2017 honorees are as follows:

Agency of the Year - Community Services League
The Community Services League is committed to serving families and children in crisis in Eastern Jackson County. Families living in poverty are helped through their offices in Blue Springs, Buckner, Grain Valley, Lee’s Summit, Raytown, Oak Grove and four Independence locations. In 2016, Community Services League provided food valued at more than one million dollars to families throughout its region.

Network Partnership-Onsite Meal Programs - Morning Glory Ministries
The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception began feeding the hungry more than 35 years ago in an effort to address the issue of hunger many downtown residents were facing. Since that time, services have expanded to include a weekend hot lunch program, a breakfast program and a name change to Morning Glory Ministries. This year the agency expects to serve 90,000 meals.

Network Partnership-Pantry - New Hope Presbyterian Church
New Hope Presbyterian Church in Olathe has been serving the community since 2011 with both a food pantry and a monthly mobile distribution. They serve more than 750 households each month and have served as a training site for multiple other mobile distributions in the area. Since New Hope Presbyterian Church began serving their community, they have distributed more than 2.3 million pounds of food.

Nutrition Champion - Hillcrest Community Center
Hillcrest Community Center hosts nutrition education classes for children and adults and also hosts their own health fairs. In addition, they offer the Kids Cafe program which is Harvesters’ after school feeding program. Through the many nutrition classes offered by Hillcrest to children, adults and seniors, 123 people have attended the multi-week classes.

See the full list of agency partner honorees and their videos and photos at https://www.harvesters.org/Agencies/Circle-of-Hope-Awards/2017-Circle-of-Hope
Agency Partners,

The past couple of months have seen a lot of activity among the Network. Summer feeding programs ended, and we all began restocking our shelves after the busy summer.

As you know, September was Hunger Action Month, and I want to recognize some agencies that helped us with media stories this month: New Hope Presbyterian (Jim Linker), Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas (Dustin Hardison) and Hope.wrx (Marilyn Smith).

Harvesters is proud to highlight the good work of our Agency Partners. If you have a story that you would like to share, please send it to me directly, or post to our Agency Facebook page. If you haven’t joined the Facebook group for Harvesters’ Network of Agencies, please request to join at www.tinyurl.com/partneragencies.

In addition, many were focused on helping our neighbors to the south who were affected by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. In the event of a local disaster, we want you to know you can look to Harvesters as a resource. We know each situation will impact each community differently, and the needs that arise will be different.

Harvesters works directly with our agency partners to determine how we can best support any relief efforts. We look to our partners in the Agency Network as leaders in these local efforts.

Please know that Harvesters stands at the ready to support recovery efforts across our region. Please contact us if you are able to act as a lead agency in disaster relief plans.

We appreciate all you do for the hungry in our communities. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at jkejr@harvesters.org.

Sincerely,

Jessica Kejr
Director of Program Services

A Note from Program Services

New Report Focuses on Senior Hunger

1 in 12 seniors is food insecure

Feeding America recently released a report on senior hunger. Following are a few highlights:

- In 2015, 8.1% of seniors age 60 and older in the U.S., or 5.4 million seniors overall, were food insecure.
- The current rate of food insecurity among seniors remains substantially above the rate in 2007 (6.3%), and the current number of seniors who are food insecure is still more than double the number in 2001 (2.3 million).
- In Kansas, 8.3% of seniors is food insecure; in Missouri, 6.2% of seniors is food insecure.

For more information, please see the “State of Senior Hunger & Health in America in 2015 Executive Summary” in the Agency Resources section of the agency website at https://www.harvesters.org/agencies/resources.

Compliance Corner

Clean rooms needed to repack food items

Did you know that in accordance with Harvesters’ Safe Food Training and the Food Safety Modernization Act, agencies need a "Clean Room" to repack food items?

To have a Clean Room, you need the following:
- USDA compliant Sanitation Standard Operating Procedures (SSOP)
- Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Points (HACCP) plans
- Be FDA compliant for dry food products
- Be USDA compliant and inspected to process meat
- Obtain county health inspection of Clean Room

For more information, visit these two websites.
https://www.law.cornell.edu/cfr/text/9/416.2
https://www.fda.gov/Food/GuidanceRegulation/FSMA/ucm334115.htm
SNAP Outreach Services

How Harvesters’ team can assist you

Harvesters’ SNAP Outreach team is available to assist your agency with the following services:

**Referrals:**
- Screen your clients to find out if they could enroll in food stamps.
- Refer eligible clients to our Helpline where they can apply for food stamps over the phone.
- Hand out flyers in your clients’ bags/boxes and display posters in your waiting area about how to sign up for food stamps (we’ll even provide the flyers and posters).

**Office Hours:**
- Have Harvesters’ SNAP Outreach staff come visit your agency to sign your clients up for food stamps.
- Schedule recurring visits and advertise them to your clients.

**SNAP Access:**
- Invite Harvesters staff to your agency to train your employees and volunteers in how to fill out and file food stamp applications.
- Help your clients get the benefits they need, with plenty of training and support from Harvesters staff.
- Training only takes 1 hour and can be hosted as often as necessary.

In addition, FRAC now has new interactive maps showing SNAP participation and impact by state at:

http://frac.org/research/resource-library/snap-map-snap-matters-every-state

To learn more and to schedule time with our SNAP Outreach staff, please contact Megan Grubb at mgrubb@harvesters.org or by phone at 816.929.3280.

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**Disaster Response**

Harvesters is working in conjunction with our national hunger relief partner, Feeding America, to provide support to families and seniors impacted by Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

Harvesters is one of Feeding America’s disaster-relief staging sites, and we sent one of our drivers and trucks to the Beaumont, Texas area, along with a truckload of food on September 5. A few days prior to that, Feeding America sent a truck to Harvesters to pick up food for Texas. That truckload included 30,000 lbs. of disaster supplies and food.

Harvesters now has a driver in Florida assisting hurricane victims there.

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**Diabetes Webinar Available Online**

The diabetes webinar hosted by Harvesters on Sept. 26 is available for viewing at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dTvfABtHTT1&feature=youtu.be
Providing Healthy Choices to Clients

Nutrition services available

Do you want to provide healthy choices for your food pantry guests, but need some new ideas or support? Watch for more information to come via email and Harvesters’ Agency website for opportunities to work directly with the Nutrition Services Team in short-term coaching and collaboration sessions that will help you make the healthy choice the easy choice for your pantry guests. Questions? Contact us at nutrition@harvesters.org.

Nutrition Information

The cost of diabetes

Research from the American Diabetes Association shows the total costs associated with those diagnosed with diabetes was $245 billion in 2012, up from $174 billion in 2007, when the cost was last examined. Check out the numbers in the adjoining graphic.

The study, Economic Costs of Diabetes in the U.S. in 2012, was commissioned by ADA and addresses the increased financial burden, health resources used and lost productivity associated with diabetes. The report can be found online at http://www.diabetes.org/advocacy/news-events/cost-of-diabetes.html.

Feeding Kids Coast to Coast

Feeding America highlights Harvesters’ Programs

Emily Catalano from Feeding America visited Harvesters this summer to check out some of our innovative summer partnerships.

She included a story about her visit in a recent Hunger Blog on Feeding America’s website. Check out the story, which features our great partnership with the Topeka Public Library for Kids Cafe and summer BackSnack on their Adventure Mobile! http://www.feedingamerica.org/hunger-in-america/news-and-updates/hunger-blog/feeding-kids-coast-to-coast.html.