Milk is one of the most desired staples for those who have a hard time affording groceries at all. But it’s one item many agencies have a hard time stocking because of transportation and storage issues.

Harvesters has teamed up with Hiland Dairy on a new partnership, Milk2MyPlate. This partnership provides a weekly supply of fresh, 2% low-fat milk at a consistent, affordable price to Harvesters’ agency partners. The milk delivered to agencies has Hiland’s label and has 17 days until the stated “use-by” date. Since the milk is coming directly from the dairy, there is plenty of time to distribute it to clients.

“Over the last few years we have worked hard to increase the healthy choices for those that shop in our pantries. Gaining access to milk helps mothers provide for their children and seniors to remain healthy,” says Dustin Hardison, Director of Stabilization and Housing, Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, a Harvesters partner agency and Milk2MyPlate pilot program participant. “Just because someone is low-income doesn’t mean that they shouldn’t have the same choices or options as everyone else,” he adds.

Harvesters piloted the Milk2MyPlate program with 12 of its partner agencies from February to May. These agencies listed at the right are continuing to participate in the Milk2MyPlate program. More than 20,000 half gallons of milk have been distributed.

New agencies wishing to participate in the program must be able to receive and pay for 54 or 100 half gallons of milk each week. In addition, agencies must serve at least 50 families per week and have adequate refrigerator space to store the milk.

If you would like to learn more or indicate your interest to participate in the Milk2MyPlate program, please contact Jessica Kejr at 816.929.3045.

Pilot Program Agencies
- Operation Breakthrough
- ECKAN
- Hope Network
- Community Senior Citizens Center, Inc.
- Hillside Opening Possibilities for Everyone, Inc.
- St Vincent de Paul - St Therese North
- Shawnee Community Services
- Community Services League-Noland Rd
- Community Assistance Council
- Good Samaritan Center
- Bishop Sullivan Center
- Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas

More Information
Dear Agencies,

Welcome to our new agency newsletter! One thing we have heard from the network partner agencies participating in our Agency Advisory Council meetings is the need for increased communications from Harvesters and between agencies.

To meet this need, we are implementing an agency network communications plan so you receive a consistent message from Harvesters, you receive timely information and you receive the information you request from Harvesters concerning strategic initiatives and plans.

In addition to this newsletter, which will initially be published every other month, we will continue to send you emails, as necessary, and we have begun an agency network private Facebook group. If you haven’t joined the Facebook group, please request to join the group at http://tinyurl.com/partner-agencies so you can join our conversation on the site.

We could not achieve our mission of feeding hungry people today and working to end hunger tomorrow without the support of all of you, our partners in the Community Food Network. You are on the front line and see the need day in and day out. We appreciate all you do for the hungry in our communities.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at customercare@harvesters.org.

Sincerely,

Valerie Nicholson-Watson
Harvesters CEO and President

Agency Network Groups
New structure helps feed more hungry people

Last month Harvesters launched its new Agency Network Groups. This new grouping structure, along with your dedicated partnership, will move us closer to feeding more hungry families, children and seniors in our community.

The goals of the new Agency Network Groups are to:
• Strengthen our Agency Network.
• Provide practical support to those partners best able to increase capacity to serve more people.
• Empower all agencies to further explore how they address hunger in their communities and enhance their impact.
• Improve product throughput.
• Work in collaboration to resolve issues and limitations for clients and agencies: Access, transportation, capacity, nutritional needs.

The Harvesters team thanks all the agencies for your input in the development of the final structure of the Agency Network Groups. Based on your input, Harvesters incorporated some aspects agencies felt were valuable back into the plan.

Harvesters is excited about all of these improvements, and we anticipate a positive impact across our service area.

HARVESTERS’ SNAP OUTREACH TEAM CAN HELP YOUR CLIENTS
• Many people don’t know they may be eligible to receive SNAP (food stamp) benefits.
• Our team can assist with completing and filing applications.

Call us at 877.653.9522 to learn more about how we can partner and how you can stay up to date on SNAP changes and legislation.

HAVE A BEST PRACTICE TO SHARE?
Sharing best practices is critical to continuous improvement. Help us and our network learn, change and grow.

Please contact Jessica Kejr, Director of Program Services at 816.929.3045.

Get agency updates online at: www.harvesters.org/agencies
Federal Feeding Programs in Jeopardy

Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill (H.R. 5003)

The Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill includes funding for key child feeding programs like school breakfast and lunch, after school programs and WIC.

The current House version of the bill proposes a potentially devastating block grant provision that would eliminate the federal government's commitment to providing nutritious breakfasts and lunches to low-income children at school. The program would initially be piloted in three states.

Learn more and stay up-to-date on federal hunger legislation, by signing up to receive Harvesters' Advocacy Alerts at www.harvesters.org/give-voice.

Kids Cafe Helps Ease Childhood Hunger

Afterschool and summer programs provide food and fun

As part of our Childhood Hunger Initiative and to help alleviate summer childhood hunger, Harvesters offers an afterschool and summer feeding program – Kids Cafe.

Along with the USDA and the States of Kansas and Missouri, Harvesters’ Kids Cafe provides free healthy meals to children and teens ages 18 and younger. Working with agency partners, Harvesters serves meals at schools, libraries, parks, pools, community centers and churches throughout its 26-county service area.

This summer more than 80 sites are providing a total of more than 120,000 meals and many offer special activities such as the July 14 event at Boom Comics in Topeka, Kan. Boom Comics gave a free comic to all children who came for the free lunch.

Harvesters provides the program free of charge to eligible sites and provides all training and assists with program set-up and administration.

To learn more about Kids Cafe and other Harvesters child feeding programs visit www.harvesters.org/agencies and click on programs.

Get agency updates online at: www.harvesters.org/agencies
Rally your supporters to donate food during the Our Community Can food drive during Hunger Action Month!

It takes agencies like yours and all of your supporters to feed our hungry neighbors. Watch for more information on how you can participate in this food drive.

Harvesters will provide agencies with bags and a customizable flyer to attach to your bags.

Hand out the bags to your agency’s supporters beginning September 17. On Saturday, September 24, collect all the bags and report the poundage you received to Harvesters. Your agency keeps all the food donated!

For more information and to sign up visit www.harvesters.org/occagency.

Construction Project Continues
Changes underway in our KC facility agency pick-up area

If you’ve driven into Harvesters’ back parking lot recently, you’ve seen some changes! These are all part of Harvesters’ building improvements project.

This project includes:
• Expansion of Harvesters’ cooler and cold dock so the food bank can accept and distribute more fresh produce to our network.
• Addition of a clean room enabling Harvesters to repackage nonperishable dry products as well as potentially meat.

Construction will continue through the first of 2017. Project updates can be found at: www.harvesters.org/agency/construction.

Our Community Can... And You Can Too!
Food drive this September

Stay up to date on the latest news at: www.harvesters.org/agencies/hungernews
Read these stories and more.

Simple change could solve problem facing poor people, Washington Post

The return of American hunger, The Atlantic

HUNGER IN THE NEWS