Harvesters’ Network Makes the Season Brighter for Many

Holiday highlights from Harvesters Network Agencies

This holiday season Harvesters distributed 282,135 pounds of holiday meats to our network. That’s 235,112 meals! In November, we also distributed more than 19,000 pounds of holiday boxes (the side dishes to go with the holiday meats) equaling 15,907 meals. These holiday meals are so important to the families who receive them.

“I just wanted to thank Harvesters for their partnership with us. We were able to give away 147 Thanksgiving dinners this year.”

--Sharon Childers, Crossroads Cowboy Church, Perry, KS

Cold weather brings higher utility bills for families and with that tough decisions between paying these bills and buying food. KCP&L distributed more than 67,000 high efficiency light bulbs to many Harvesters’ agencies this month, including Metro Lutheran Ministries. The bulbs will last longer and use less electricity.

“During the last few months, our pantry has been serving around 110 families each Tuesday from 12-4. On the Tuesday before Thanksgiving we had scheduled 96. So with 96 "holiday birds" scheduled we felt good. Before we opened that Tuesday, we were offered an additional 84 turkeys from Harvesters and another church. By the end of that day we served 140 families with enough turkeys for everyone who wanted one. As a church community service agency, we had a prayer request to begin the day for more turkeys, and a prayer of great thanks for the additional turkeys needed for the additional 46 families. 5 loaves and 2 fishes.”

--Doug Carruthers, Renewed Hope Pantry at New Haven SDA Church, Overland Park, KS

Thanks to all Harvesters’ agencies for your dedication to feeding others and giving so many hope this holiday season.

“Thank you. This is the first time I have not had to worry about what I will feed my kids for breakfast.”

--Working mom with 4 kids (served at SPEAC food pantry, Parkville, MO)
Happy Holidays! 2016 has been a wonderful year, and we are grateful for all you do to help hungry children, families and seniors.

We saw many changes at Harvesters this past year. Construction began, and is nearly complete, on our cooler expansion and other enhancements to our Kansas City facility, including an expanded volunteer engagement room for packing bread, CSFP boxes and BackSnacks, and a new Clean Room. We also have our new Agency Pickup area that is well lit for early morning pickups. We greatly appreciate your patience with us this summer and fall during the construction process.

We had good agency participation in the Our Community Can food drive in September, and we’re looking forward to seeing even more agencies participate next year.

Be sure to mark your calendars for the days we will be closed during the holiday season – Thursday, December 22, Friday, December 23, Monday, December 26, and Monday, January 2.

Please watch for more information to come via email, the Agency website, and the Agency Facebook page about the Agency Conferences to be held in the spring.

Have a wonderful holiday season. We’ll see you in 2017!

Sincerely,

Jessica Kejr
Director of Program Services

Construction News

“Clean Room” to open soon

Construction at Harvesters’ Kansas City facility is progressing rapidly. When you drive to the new Agency Pickup area, you can see the progress on the cooler expansion as support beams have been erected and roof and walls are being installed.

Inside, work on our new Clean Room is nearly complete. The Clean Room will allow Harvesters to accept bulk donations of items like beans, pasta, cereal and rice, and repackage them – in a safe and contained manner – into consumer-sized bags or boxes and then place these items on the menu. We hope to have this new area operational in early 2017.

Please continue to check the construction page on Harvesters’ Agency webpage to stay up-to-date on the construction project.

Share With Us!

Best practices and other activities

We see so many great practices when we visit our agencies! If you have photos of things you have done you would like to share, please post them to our Agency Facebook page or send them to us to post at ghallinan@harvesters.org. By sharing what you do to help feed hungry individuals in your area, you will help other agencies who are looking for new ideas.

Get agency updates online at: www.harvesters.org/agencies
Online Ordering Changes

Time to place orders is now 17 days

Agencies who place online food orders with Harvesters need to know that effective January 3, 2017, the timeframe for placing and editing online food orders through Harvesters Express will be 17 days, instead of 30 days.

This change helps our network distribute food to people in need more quickly and reduce the total number of days Harvesters stores food orders. One additional bonus, once the cooler expansion is complete more perishable items will be added to the menu, increasing agency and client access to fresh, nutritious food.

The timeframe was a big topic of discussion with our Agency Advisory Council. Concerns and questions from agencies were fully considered as we made this decision. Most agencies on the Advisory Council agree this is a good move and that the impact to agencies will be minimal once everyone is informed, understands the change and can plan accordingly.

How to Submit Orders

With this change, each agency will have 14 to 15 days to create and schedule a new order and edit that order. The final two or three days of the window will be used by Harvesters to process and pick those orders. Order edits must be completed within two days of the shipment date for agencies served out of the Kansas City facility and three days of the shipment date for Topeka-area agencies.

Agency pickup at Harvesters, and use of the Shopping Floor for produce and perishable items will continue to be an option at both facilities. Please schedule those pickup and/or shopping appointments as usual in KC or Topeka. The same 17-day calendar applies for pickup appointments as well as delivery.

This change may impact planning for agencies, the size of orders and timing of orders. Please consider any impacts and discuss internally any updates you may need at your location.

Please refer to the email sent by Jessica Kejr on November 15 for additional details, or contact Customer Care at customercare@harvesters.org or 816-929-3220 with any questions.
Need ideas for low-cost, nutritious recipes to share with clients? Harvesters’ Cookbook has lots of recipes. Download a copy at this link on the Agency website http://www.harvesters.org/agencies/resources. Click on “Harvesters Cookbook”, under Nutrition Information. There are many other great resources on this page as well. Check them out now!

This week, many will gather together with friends and family to celebrate the holidays. When the fun is done, you may be left with more turkey than you anticipated. MyPlate has provided these unique ways to use up those leftovers! Turkey is a versatile food and an excellent source of lean protein! For more healthy recipes, check out www.WhatsCooking.fns.usda.gov, and learn more about the Protein Foods Group at ChooseMyPlate.gov.

Recipe Ideas!

Use the Harvesters Cookbook

Turkey 5 Ways
Using up extra holiday turkey

Stay Connected
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.

Stay up-to-date on all the latest network news and share best practices with other agencies. Need help joining the page? Contact our Communications Department at 816-929-3073.