It’s estimated that across America, more than 13 million children are food insecure, including more than 122,000 children in Harvesters’ 26-county region. This means these children do not have regular access to the healthy, nutritious food that they need to learn and thrive.

Harvesters and you, our partner agencies, help feed more than 35,000 children a month through our pantries, kitchens and shelters. In addition, our network feeds children through our Kids Cafe (after school and summer meals) and BackSnack programs.

Harvesters’ BackSnack program provides a weekly backpack filled with nutritious, child-friendly food for schoolchildren to take home over the weekend.

BackSnack is a partnership between Harvesters, a participating school and a local community partner—usually a corporate, civic or religious organization. Since its inception in 2004, Harvesters’ BackSnack program has grown from 30 students to more than 20,000 students in 2015-2016. Recent results from an independent evaluation of the program show the impact it has on food-insecure children.

Here are some of the highlights:

**School Attendance:**
Absences by children for medical reasons were reduced. Participants also had 9 percent fewer tardies.

**Attention:**
Schools report a 10 percent improvement in students’ attentiveness and on-task behavior. Classroom participation increased by 10 percent from the start of the school year to the 3rd quarter.

**Behavior:**
Discipline issues among participants were reduced by 12 percent. Improvements in behavior are statistically significant for those surveyed.

**Grades:**
Grades improved in all four subject areas studied—math, science, social studies and English. Children report it is easier to work without help, to understand their teachers and to understand their homework.

**Health:**
Visits to the school nurse were reduced by 8 percent. Children say they enjoy eating the food in their BackSnacks because it is healthy.

**Social Skills:**
Teachers say participants are friendlier, respectful, responsible, well-behaved, and participate more in class.

To learn more about the BackSnack program or Harvesters’ Kids Cafe program for children, visit: www.harvesters.org/Agencies/KidsPrograms.
Hello,

Everything we do—every meal provided, every nutrition lesson taught, every pound of produce distributed—is through a partnership with our Agency Network.

All of our recent efforts to implement the agency grouping structure, increase our communication methods, offer free delivery, and pursue new pilot programs are all in effort to enhance the impact of our Agency Network, build capacity, and feed more people through proactive and strategic partnerships.

During fiscal year 2016, we accomplished many great things with your partnership.

• Distributed more than 40.7 million meals.
• Distributed 17,154,509 lbs. of fresh produce.
• Reached 23,146 adults, teens and children through nutrition education services.
• Helped submit 2,498 SNAP applications, resulting in nearly 2.5 million meals.

I would also like to recognize this year’s outstanding partners who received Circle of Hope awards (see list on page 3). As we celebrate these award winners, I applaud the entire Agency Network for the positive impact you are making for your neighbors in need.

Harvesters continues to pursue new ways to engage agencies. We want to hear from you and discern where and how we can work together to improve our efforts to end hunger in our region. As always, feel free to contact me directly at jkejr@harvesters.org.

Please watch for more information to come via email, the Agency Website, and the Agency Facebook page including:
• Holiday Meats process and timeline
• Two week ordering window (taking effect in January)
• Healthy Pantry Partnership application

Sincerely,

Jessica Kejr
Director of Program Services

Get agency updates online at: www.harvesters.org/agencies
Join the Conversation!

Harvesters’ new 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.

Holiday Meats

Watch for more information

Thank you for completing the holiday meat survey interest form. We have completed the allocation and will post information about the distribution on Harvesters’ Express. Stay tuned for more information!

Agencies Receive Recognition

Harvesters’ 2016 Circle of Hope Award Recipients

Congratulations to the following agencies honored at Harvesters’ Circle of Hope awards!

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.

Community Assistance Council
Agency of the Year

Ronald McDonald House Charities
Onsite Network Partnership

I Care, Inc.
Kansas Pantry Network Partnership

Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library
Program Award

University of Central Missouri Campus Cupboard
Missouri Pantry Network Partnership

To see a full list and watch videos of Circle of Hope award winners, visit www.harvesters.org/COH.

Order Freezer Blankets Now

Blankets needed to comply with food safety requirements

Agencies who pick up food from Harvesters need to place orders for freezer blankets or purchase them on their own by December 1. Harvesters is able to provide a 50% discount on your first blanket. To receive the discount, orders must be placed and picked up by November 28. Orders may be placed on Harvesters Express, along with your regular food order. For more information, visit www.harvesters.org/Agencies/Freezer-Blanket.
The Food and Drug Administration has announced new food label requirements that will take full effect next year. But some manufacturers may start making changes now. The changes are designed to make it easier for consumers to understand labels and make healthier food choices. Here are some of the changes that you can help your clients look for.

Servings
The number of “servings per container” and the “Serving Size” declaration have increased and are now in larger and/or bolder type. Serving sizes have been updated to reflect what people actually eat and drink today. There are also new requirements for certain size packages, such as those that are between one and two servings or are larger than a single serving but could be consumed in one or multiple sittings.

Calories
“Calories” is now larger and bolder.

Fats
“Calories from Fat” has been removed because research shows the type of fat consumed is more important than the amount.

Added Sugars
“Added Sugars” in grams and as a percent Daily Value (%DV) is now required on the label. “Added Sugars” include sugars that have been added during the processing or packaging of a food.

Nutrients
The lists of nutrients that are required or permitted on the label have been updated. Vitamin D and potassium are now required on the label because Americans do not always get the recommended amounts. Vitamins A and C are no longer required since deficiencies of these vitamins are rare today. The daily values for nutrients have also been updated based on newer scientific evidence.

Footnote
The footnote at the bottom of the label has changed to better explain the meaning of %DV. The %DV helps you understand the nutrition information in the context of a total daily diet.