



Frequently Asked Questions

What is Harvesters?

Harvesters is the Feeding America food bank serving a 26-county area of northwestern Missouri and northeastern Kansas. Harvesters provides food and related household products to more than 760 nonprofit agencies including food pantries, community kitchens, shelters, and others. Harvesters is a certified partner food bank of Feeding America, a nationwide network of more than 200 food banks. Harvesters is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit organization.

Harvesters is often confused with a food pantry. As a food bank, Harvesters acquires, stores and distributes food to its network of nonprofit agencies, enabling them to do what they do best — providing direct service to families, children and seniors experiencing food insecurity.

What is Harvesters' mission?

Harvesters—The Community Food Network mobilizes the power of our community to create equitable access to nutritious food and address the root causes and impact of hunger. Harvesters fulfills its mission through programs that feed children, families and seniors and teach about good nutrition.

Who does Harvesters serve?

Pantries in Harvesters' network provide food assistance to as many as 226,000 different people each month. More than 3.6 million times a year, the network provides food to someone in our region. Harvesters' network provides food assistance — a meal, a bag of groceries or fresh produce — to someone in our region.

Who are these people?

- 35 percent are children.
- 15 percent are seniors.
- 9 percent live in temporary housing or are houseless.
- 61 percent of households served have at least one person who has worked in the last year.
- 75 percent have household incomes of \$25,000 or less.

How many people are hungry?

In Harvesters' 26-county service area, one in 11 people is food insecure. That means they may have a meal today but do not know if there will be food tomorrow. Many food insecure households do not qualify for federal nutrition assistance programs such as SNAP (food stamps), WIC and free or reduced-price school meals. One in eight children in our region is food insecure.

HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE HUNGRY?

All residents	Harvesters' 26-County Service Area	Kansas Statewide	Missouri Statewide
Number of food insecure people	252,650	291,430	715,170
Percent of population	9.5%	9.9%	11.6%
Children under age 18			
Number of food insecure children	75,760	93,960	177,320
Percent of children	12.1%	13.4%	12.8%

How does Harvesters accomplish its mission?

During fiscal year 2023, Harvesters distributed 56 million meals to neighbors experiencing food insecurity in our region from our facilities in Topeka, Kan., and Kansas City, Mo.

Here's how we do it:



1. Harvesters develops local partnerships with growers, processors, manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and restaurants. The food bank encourages them to donate, not dump. Local businesses, churches, schools and civic organizations also donate nonperishable groceries through community food drives for Harvesters.



2. Harvesters transports donated food and groceries from local donors or from national donors affiliated with Feeding America to our warehouse.



3. Volunteers help Harvesters sort and repackage donated items, which are stored using safe food handling practices and then distributed to member agencies.



4. Donations are given to neighbors at food pantries, community kitchens, senior centers, homeless shelters and other programs across our region.

Does Harvesters serve my county?

Harvesters provides food to nonprofit agencies in 26 counties, including 10 northwestern Missouri counties and 16 northeastern Kansas counties.

In Missouri:

Bates, Carroll, Cass, Clay, Henry, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Platte and Ray.

In Kansas:

Clay, Douglas, Franklin, Jackson, Jefferson, Johnson, Marshall, Miami, Nemaha, Osage, Pottawatomie, Riley, Shawnee, Wabaunsee, Washington and Wyandotte.

When was Harvesters founded?

Harvesters was founded in Kansas City in 1979. A group of people representing the faith community, social service agencies and the food industry met to discuss a problem. While some were struggling to feed neighbors experiencing food insecurity, tons of salvageable foods were being sent to landfills. From that meeting, Harvesters was born. During its first eight months in operation, the new food bank distributed 155,000 pounds of food. In fiscal year 2023, Harvesters distributed more than 64 million pounds of food.

How can I support Harvesters?

Give food.

Community food drives are a key source of the meals Harvesters distributes.

Give money.

Each \$1 donated helps Harvesters provide meals to those in our community facing hunger.

Give time.

Volunteers help sort food and perform other tasks at Harvesters' Topeka and Kansas City facilities.

Give voice.

Become a hunger advocate by signing up for Harvesters' advocacy email alerts at www.harvesters.org.

