

The Bread Box

Fall 2019 Newsletter



"This means we get to have a nice meal as a family, which we wouldn't be able to afford otherwise."

-Crystal Perspective, page 7

Your support provides meals for families like Crystal and Eva this holiday season.



Second Harvest
Food Bank
of Northwest Pennsylvania

MEMBER OF
FEEDING AMERICA

Country Fair Cares: Food Rescue Program

Thirty-five Country Fair locations have been paired with thirty-four of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania's member agencies through the Country Fair Cares Food Rescue Program. This collaborative effort aims to provide wholesome, ready-to-eat meals to people in need while reducing food waste.

Several times each week through this program, member agencies pick-up prepared foods and grocery items that would otherwise be discarded. Products that are donated include bread rolls, hot dog buns, pretzel rolls, English muffins, croissants, cereal, snacks, cookies, milk, cheese and bottled drinks.

- Year to date, over 200,000 pounds of food has been donated to Second Harvest member agencies through the Country Fair Food Rescue Program.
- Since January 1, 2019, food obtained through the Country Fair Cares Food Rescue Program has enabled our network to distribute more than 150,000 meals.
- So far this calendar year, over \$25,000 worth of food has been donated to Second Harvest agencies through the Country Fair Cares Food Rescue Program.

The support of community partnerships like the Country Fair Cares Food Rescue Programs strengthen our ability to continue to alleviate hunger for our neighbors in need.



Visit from Secretary of the Department of Human Services

"The fight to end hunger is tireless, but your efforts to feed thousands of low-income Pennsylvanians across 11 counties are making a difference!"

These were the words of Teresa Miller, Secretary of the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. Secretary Miller visited Second Harvest on September 12th, Hunger Action Day as a part of the Wolf Administration's Hunger Action Month tour.

The group worked alongside Second Harvest volunteers to pack supplementary food box for low-income senior citizens across northwest Pennsylvania.

The Department of Human Services has provided a grant to Second Harvest to support the new SNAP Outreach Coordinator. This position is dedicated to increasing the number of participants throughout our region receiving benefits through The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), more commonly known as food stamps.



Hamot Health Foundation Enables School Pantry Program Expansion

A core objective of The Hamot Health Foundation is to promote community health in Erie County. As part of that initiative, the Foundation made ten grants available to address one or more areas of need as identified through Erie Vital Signs. Indicators included:

- Health Behaviors & Disease Prevention
- Availability & Utilization of Healthcare Services
- Chronic Disease & Disease Management
- Poverty & Self Sufficiency

Second Harvest was awarded \$21,000 to form three new School Pantries at Rice Avenue Middle School in Girard, Iroquois High School and Corry High School. These Second Harvest School Pantries will address poverty by making food staples and other grocery items available at no cost. Children and their families can obtain the resources they need to learn and grow at home, while students can devote energy to school work rather than worrying where they will get their next meal.

"Hamot Health Foundation invests in local resources that positively impact the overall health and wellness of the Erie community, and good health begins in childhood," said Hamot Health Foundation President, Charles "Boo" Hagerty. "Second Harvest's School Pantry Program is an excellent way to reach children in need of the nutritious food required to support their learning and growth."



Gratitude

Honoring those who support our mission to alleviate hunger

Last fiscal year, more than 250 businesses, schools, churches, individuals and other generous groups in our community donated over \$445,000 through fundraisers and nearly 290,000 pounds of food through food drives. Collectively, those fundraisers and food drives enabled Second Harvest to distribute nearly three million meals throughout our anti-hunger network.

We are grateful for the many partners we have throughout our 11-country service area. Not only do we depend on these community leaders to gain continued support of our programs, but by organizing a fundraiser or food collection, they play an essential role in our mission to alleviate hunger.

Each year Second Harvest hosts the Bread Box Awards Luncheon to honor those who planned an event in support of our mission. 2019 Category Winners included:

	First Place	Second Place
Large Business	Penelec	Giant Eagle
Small Business	The Cork 1794	West Advisory Group
Church	St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church	Roman Catholic Diocese
College	Penn State Behrend	Mercyhurst University
Elementary School	St. Luke School	Blessed Sacrament Elementary
Middle School	Wilson Middle School	Westlake Middle School
High School	McDowell High School	Fort LeBoeuf High School
Individuals	Sean & Alicia Costello	Natalie Keil
Organization	Rouse	Erie Water Works

Penelec won top honors for their month long Harvest for Hunger campaign which includes an activity allowing employees to build their own indoor putt-putt course. External Affairs Coordinator Brian Paganie accepted the award. "Penelec was surprised, but honored to take home the overall winning award," Paganie says.

If you haven't hosted a project for Second Harvest yet, we hope you will consider doing so. Media & Special Events Coordinator, Andrea Velez, can be reached at 814-459-3663 x 113 or avelez@nwpafodbank.org to assist in coordinating a food drive or fundraiser.





Program Insight:

Expanding the Second Harvest Produce Express Distribution

A core strategic objective of Second Harvest is to ensure that those facing hunger in our area have access to quality, nutritious food. On Tuesday, July 19th, 2016, the first Produce Express distribution was held in the Second Harvest parking lot, serving 42 families. After reaching capacity by serving nearly 140 families at each Tuesday distribution, Second Harvest expanded the program by increasing the number of Produce Express distributions taking place each month from two to four.

The new Produce Express distributions were strategically scheduled on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month. By offering this distribution of healthy choices on a different day of the week and at a different time of the day, new families who may not be able to take advantage of the 2nd and 4th Tuesday distributions will now be able to receive these quality, healthful products.

Second Harvest Food Bank CEO, Karen Seggi, says, "We are acquiring a truckload of produce every week, along with some dairy, deli and other nutritious perishable items. They're not doing anyone any good sitting in our warehouse. We want to get these items on the tables of families who are experiencing difficult times. The expansion of this program is helping us to do just that."

On the first day of the expanded program, nearly 140 households received eggs, watermelons, potatoes, frozen pork products and other grocery staples loaded right into their vehicles.

If you or someone you know is in need of food assistance, please contact Programs Manager, Gerry Weiss, at 814-459-3663 x 120 or gweiss@nwpafobank.org to inquire about the Produce Express Program.

Community Partner Spotlight:

Walmart's Fight Hunger. Spark Change. Campaign

According the Feeding America® Map the Meal Gap Study, more than 91,000 individuals in northwest Pennsylvania don't know where they will get their next meal. To raise hunger awareness and enable communities to make a change, Walmart, Sam's Club, Feeding America® and Second Harvest teamed up for the sixth annual nationwide "*Fight Hunger. Spark Change.*" campaign.

Between April 22nd and May 20th, Walmart and Sam's Club invited shoppers throughout Second Harvest's 11-county service area to help those in need in their local community by purchasing participating items in-store or online, donating in-store or by donating on Feeding America's website. A purchase of one of the 267 participating items at Walmart, Sam's Clubs or on Walmart.com during the campaign helped secure the equivalent of one meal on behalf of Second Harvest.

In total, the 2019 "*Fight Hunger. Spark Change.*" campaign raised over \$104,000 in our service area, helping Second Harvest distribute nearly 625,000 meals across northwest Pennsylvania through our anti-hunger network. Nationwide, over \$28,600,000 was raised for Feeding America and member food banks.

"By working with Walmart, its eighteen supplier partners and Synchrony Bank, we have a significant opportunity to make progress towards alleviating hunger in our community," said Karen Seggi, Second Harvest's Chief Executive Officer. "This campaign helps us to provide more food to people in need in northwest Pennsylvania. We are so thankful for this collaboration and for the people across our service area that took action and participated in the 2019 campaign. We are looking forward to partnering with Walmart again for *Fight Hunger. Spark Change. 2020.*"



Full Plate Society

Full Plate Society

Recognizing distinguished

Second Harvest donors who will be forever remembered through their planned gifts. Their vision will help to ensure that our mission to alleviate hunger will continue for current and future generations.

Members of the Full Plate Society at Second Harvest are those who have committed legacy gifts that live on in perpetuity. Planned gifts make a large impact because they help to ensure that tomorrow's families in need will have nutritious meals for generations to come.

Second Harvest recently installed a recognition display to honor those who have included the Food Bank as part of their planned giving. Each unique plate represents a donor who made a legacy gift. Collectively, dozens of these donors have contributed enough to provide millions of meals to those in need in northwest Pennsylvania.

If you are considering, or have already included Second Harvest as part of your estate arrangements, please contact Zachary Webb at (814) 459-3663 x 114 or email zwebb@nwpafobank.org to join other generous donors as part of the Full Plate Society.



Perspective

The holiday season is supposed to be a time to celebrate and share food and festivities with loved ones. But for many families throughout northwest Pennsylvania, the fall and winter months bring challenges that require them to make difficult decisions. The increased cost of keeping the heat on in their homes, daily groceries, medical bills and other utilities, may mean that providing a traditional holiday meal might be just out of reach.

Each year during this season, Second Harvest partners with our anti-hunger network to provide the elements of a holiday meal to these neighbors facing difficult times. Many families face obstacles; like Crystal, who you saw on the front of this newsletter.

After losing her job, Crystal and her husband weren't sure that they'd be able to provide a traditional meal for 10-month old Eva. With only one income, there wasn't much left over after paying their monthly bills. That's why Crystal decided to visit her local food pantry. In November Crystal will not only receive a turkey for the family, but also holiday sides – carrots, green beans, stuffing and mashed potatoes.

"I'm happy that for Eva's first Thanksgiving we'll be able to really share what the holidays are all about: family," Crystal said, "We probably wouldn't be doing Thanksgiving if it weren't for this."

Stories like Crystal's and Eva's are only possible thanks to the generosity of supporters like you. In the holiday spirit of sharing and compassion, please remember our neighbors that are facing difficult circumstances with a gift to Second Harvest this Thanksgiving.

I appreciate your belief in our mission, and I am thankful for your support. All of us at Second Harvest wish you and yours all the blessings and joy of the holiday season.

Gratefully,

Karen S. Seggi
Chief Executive Officer



Coming Soon: First Annual Empty Bowls

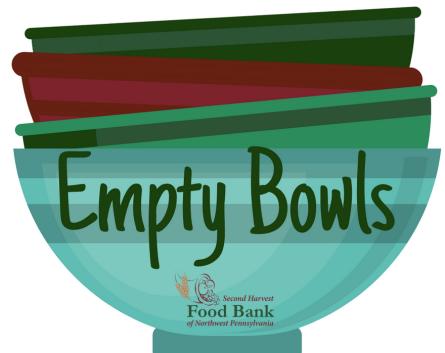
Saturday, March 28th, 2020

Second Harvest is hosting the First Annual Empty Bowls event which will serve up a simple meal of soup and bread as a reminder that too many people throughout our region are facing hunger with "empty bowls".

Guests will enjoy a wide variety of soups, bread and cookies donated by Molly Branigans, The Cork 1794, Skunk & Goat and several more of Erie's best restaurants. The event will also have live entertainment from Mambo. More than 250 hand-made bowls have been donated by local high schools, universities and businesses. All guests in attendance select a hand-made bowl to take home as a reminder that many of our neighbors need our help to keep their bowls filled.

If your business or organization would like to become an Empty Bowls Sponsor, please contact Media & Special Events Coordinator, Andrea Velez, at a velez@nwpafobank.org or 814-459-3663 x 113.

If you would like attend the First Annual Empty Bowls event at Second Harvest, please call 814-459-3663 x 113 to RSVP. Tickets are \$15 in advance and \$20 at the door.



Get Involved

For more event details, visit our Community Events page at nwpafobank.org or call 814-459-3663 x 113.



Giant Eagle Fall Food Share

Now through November 27th

Shoppers at participating Giant Eagle locations are asked to make a monetary or food donation at the register. All the food received will remain in the community where it is collected. Your monetary donations will go to Second Harvest to support our mission throughout the year.



Erie News Now Drive-Thru Food Drive

November 20, 2019

This annual all-day, drive thru food drive and fundraiser is coming to Corry, East Springfield, Edinboro, Erie, Meadville, Millcreek, Titusville, Warren and Waterford. All the food received will remain in the community where it is collected. Your monetary donations will go to Second Harvest to support our mission throughout the year.



Tops Food For Families

December 6, 2019

During the month of December, help put groceries on the table for our neighbors in need while doing your own grocery shopping. Purchase \$5, \$10 or \$20 worth of food at the register of your local Tops Friendly Market to be donated to Second Harvest. These food items will help families in need during the holiday season.



Wegmans Check Out Hunger

February 2020

Customers and employees contribute to Second Harvest by scanning a coupon at checkout that adds a donation to their order. 100% of the donation goes directly to Second Harvest. Visit our website for a list of other participating stores.



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