



MARC

Each day, Second Harvest works to increase the distribution of fresh produce to those in need. The introduction of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Cooperative (MARC) will help provide healthy, nutritious fruits and vegetables to Food Bank recipients across our 11-county service area.

MARC is part of a produce plan that represents a vision of transforming the Feeding America network from a competitive model where Food Banks jockey with each other for donations, to a coordinated model that leverages a networked approach and provides opportunities for all members.

Produce is currently brought in through the Port of Philadelphia to be distributed to grocers, supermarkets and other buyers. The produce that is not purchased must find an outlet or be destroyed. Under MARC, a total of 42-member food banks, including Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania, will gain access to the excess produce. Member food banks will only have to pay a nominal fee to repackage the donated produce into family-sized parcels in order to be distributed.

MARC is one of eight regional alliances being placed strategically throughout the country, and is scheduled to launch in June of this year.



A total of 66,100 households in northwest Pennsylvania receive support from the Second Harvest network each year, and last year, we helped 167,700 people. An unfortunate reality is that 18% of households receiving food assistance have at least one member who has served in the military.

Second Harvest recently launched *Military Share*, a Produce Express Program, to provide fresh, nutritious food to families with at least one member who has served or is serving in the armed forces or National Guard. *Military Share* distributions have taken place at the Erie VA Medical Center and the Cambridge Springs Armory and more are scheduled to take place throughout our 11-county service area. Each eligible family receives nutritious produce, fresh milk, eggs, cheese, proteins and other pantry staples such as soup, pasta and cereal when available.

The *Military Share* program is funded exclusively by donations, so your support is instrumental in reaching those veterans in need of food. A military family can be sponsored for just \$15. To learn how you or your organization can sponsor a *Military Share* distribution, please visit www.nwpafoodbank.org/military-share.





This year marks Second Harvest Food Bank's 35th anniversary of service to northwest Pennsylvania. As I look back, I realize that the strategies we have deployed have evolved, but our efforts have never strayed from our mission of providing food to those in need.

It is remarkable to reflect on the amount of growth our organization has seen since 1982. In that first year, Second Harvest distributed 444,916 pounds of food to 40 member agencies. By comparison, during the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2016, we distributed 13 million pounds of food to 297 member agencies and 140 senior box distribution sites.

In 2008, we purchased our current facility, doubling the warehouse capacity while significantly increasing the

cooler and freezer space. Our distribution programs have expanded as well. We now serve those in need through a variety of programs including our general food banking distribution, BackPacks, just-in-time deliveries, Produce Expresses, Military Share, *Fill a Glass with Hope* milk initiative and the monthly senior box program.

In 2017, Second Harvest will set another milestone when we expand our volunteer area to better suit the needs of our ever-growing volunteer base. This update is scheduled to be complete before Hunger Action Month in September, and will set the foundation for expanding our volunteer programs for years to come.

On behalf of all those who have benefitted from our services in the last 35 years: I thank you for your support. It is only through the generosity of people like you that Second Harvest is able to continue its mission of providing food to our hungry neighbors in northwest Pennsylvania.

Karen S. Seggi

Karen S. Seggi
Executive Director



INSIGHT

When Claire, age 6, overheard her grandmother talking about helping a homeless gentleman, she reacted with a mix of shock and sadness. She began to ask her mom questions about hunger, and after learning some unfortunate realities, she decided to take action.

Claire contacted family, friends and neighbors and asked them to sponsor a bike ride to help feed the hungry. Two miles and \$163.00 later, Claire requested a personal tour of Second Harvest to see how her donation would impact those in need.

"It was sad to hear that people do not have food so I decided to ride my bike to raise money for people who need it," said Claire. "It made me feel great to help."

"This was a remarkable effort from an exceptional young lady," said Karen Seggi. "It is very humbling when contributions to our Food Bank come from someone as young as Claire. Her desire and determination to help those in need sets an example for all of us to follow."



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— Claire, age 6

GRATITUDE

The Second Harvest Food Bank's partnership with Wegmans Food Markets continues to aid our mission to provide food and hope to people in need. Wegmans has partnered with Second Harvest for over twenty years. In that time, Wegmans contributions total \$1.2 million to help feed those in need. During this year's Check Out Hunger campaign, cashiers asked shoppers to add a donation of \$2, \$3 or \$5 for Second Harvest to their grocery bills. In under 30 days, Wegmans cashiers collected a total of \$84,165, exceeding store goals.

In addition to Check Out Hunger, the organization participates in the Fill the Backpack Food Drive each June to gather child-friendly food items for Second Harvest's Backpack Program. This childhood anti-hunger initiative provides kids in need with weekend bags of nutritious, easy-to-prepare food. Last year, Wegmans shoppers donated 9,776 pounds of product that went directly towards feeding local students in need. This year's Fill the Backpack Food Drive will take place June 4th through June 18th.

Not only does Wegmans conduct food and fund drives throughout the years, they also donate food on a daily basis



including produce, bread and bakery items, dairy and, deli items. Last year, Wegmans was one of our largest donors providing 270,407 pounds of food to our Food Bank.

Second Harvest is grateful for the strong community partnership with Wegmans and its customers. Together, we are working to reduce hunger and create awareness within the neighborhoods of northwest Pennsylvania.



4-Star Charity

Second Harvest has been named one of America's best managed nonprofit organizations for the tenth consecutive time by *Charity Navigator*, America's premier charity evaluator. Only 1% of the charities that are rated have received at least ten consecutive 4-star evaluations.

In his letter announcing this rating, Charity Navigator CEO Michael Thatcher stated "this 'exceptional' designation from Charity Navigator sets Second Harvest apart from its peers and demonstrates to the public its trustworthiness."

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania scored 95.78 out of 100 on Charity Navigator's rating system which examines two broad areas of a charity's performance: financial health, accountability and transparency.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

The work we do at Second Harvest would not be possible without the generous and loyal support of our donors. Thanks to the many who help with Second Harvest's mission, thousands of our neighbors in northwest Pennsylvania received emergency food and grocery products when they needed it the most.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Erie Gives Day August 8th, 2017

Erie Gives 2017 will take place on August 8, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. During this 12-hour period of online giving, The Erie Community Foundation will match a percentage of each donation you make to the Second Harvest Food Bank when you donate through the Erie Gives website at eriegives.org.

Hunger Action Month September 2017

This September, Second Harvest and the Feeding America nationwide network of food banks will mobilize in an effort to bring an end to hunger. Hunger Action Month is designed to inspire people to take action and raise awareness of the fact Second Harvest Food Bank serves 167,700 people annually, and 29% of those receiving assistance are children. This September, please remember the hunger that exists in northwest Pennsylvania, and help to alleviate that hunger by hosting a food drive or fundraiser behalf of Second Harvest Food Bank.

Second Harvest Food Bank 35th Anniversary September 28th, 2017

This year marks Second Harvest's 35th year of service in northwest Pennsylvania. A commemoration will take place in Second Harvest's newly expanded volunteer area featuring Michael Nye's traveling, multimedia art exhibition *About Hunger & Resilience*. This event will encourage Second Harvest and its supporters to reflect on the past 35 years as well as look forward to what is still to come. For more information on the 35th Anniversary event, please visit nwpafoodbank.org/35.



Volunteer Department Expansion

Second Harvest is blessed by the thousands of dedicated volunteers that give their time and talent as a gift to those who do not have enough food to eat. Our Volunteer Coordinator works with students, retirees, families, and business professionals from all walks of life during regularly scheduled volunteer shifts every day.

Second Harvest has been fortunate to see an ever-increasing volunteer base and is eager to continue that growth. In order to better suit the needs of our many volunteers, Second Harvest has begun an expansion program that will result in more room as well as updated tools and resources in our volunteer department.

In addition to an updated work area, Second Harvest's new volunteer software has made it even easier to volunteer and find out more online. There, volunteers are able to create a volunteer profile, view the volunteer calendar, and schedule a day and time to volunteer.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering, simply visit nwpafoodbank.org/get-involved.



About Hunger and Resilience

In conjunction with the commemoration of Second Harvest's 35th anniversary, Michael Nye's traveling, multimedia art exhibition *About Hunger & Resilience* will be on display at Second Harvest for three weeks.

The exhibition consists of 50 portraits and audio recordings that reveal the courageous and fragile stories of those who have experienced hunger. From September 29th to October 18th, Second Harvest will make this exhibition open to the public, allowing individuals, corporate and school groups to experience these powerful stories.

For more information on the Second Harvest's 35th anniversary, or to schedule a tour of *About Hunger & Resilience*, please visit nwpafoodbank.org/35.



Second Harvest
Food Bank
of Northwest Pennsylvania



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Warren BackPackular

The BackPack Program has expanded significantly since its pilot program several years ago. What was once a way to get food to a few hundred City of Erie School District students has now evolved into a program that serves over 2,000 students weekly in 31 schools across five counties.

Warren is one area that has embraced the BackPack Program and the positive outcomes associated with it. The Warren County School District, in cooperation with Second Harvest, provides a bag of food to 348 students on the free/reduced lunch program every Friday.

To meet the needs of preparing the BackPacks, Second Harvest hosted two *BackPackular* Events at the Allegheny Valley School. The first event witnessed nearly 100 volunteers assembling more than 5,000 BackPacks in one eight-hour shift. This food was delivered to qualifying students during the fall semester and over the Thanksgiving and Holiday breaks.



In the Spring, Second Harvest held a second *BackPackular* event and within 6 hours, another 4,000 BackPacks were filled by more than 130 volunteers. In total, an entire academic year was packed within a 14-hour time span between the two events.

These BackPacks are a lifeline to help support Warren students. For many children, the lunch provided by school on Friday is the last meal they will receive until they return for a school-provided breakfast on Monday. The Second Harvest Food Bank BackPack program helps to bridge that gap.

The next Warren BackPackular event is scheduled to take place in September. Volunteers will fill over 5,000 regular and holiday BackPacks that will serve qualifying students for the entire fall semester. For information on a BackPackular event in your area, please visit nwpafoodbank.org/BackPackular.

97 cents of every dollar that is donated to Second Harvest is used directly to help feed those in need.

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