



MEDIA RELEASE

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Second Harvest Expands Produce Express with Additional Distribution of Food for Those Newly in Need of Food

Erie, Pa., May 28, 2020 – In Erie County, there are more than 34,000 individuals who are considered food insecure. The COVID-19 crisis has led to additional families making difficult decisions for the first time about what they can and cannot afford. Second Harvest is hosting a Produce Express Drive Thru Food Distribution on Thursday, June 4th at 2:30 p.m. for families who are adversely affected by the pandemic and in need of food.

This additional Produce Express distribution is intended for those who do not currently participate in one of Second Harvest's existing Produce Express food distributions. Pre-registration for the June 4th distribution is required. Please call 814-459-3663 extension 117 and leave a message to register. Food will be distributed on a first-come first-served basis.

"We realize that many people who have never accessed our services may now need to due to the unique circumstances resulting from COVID-19," said CEO Karen Seggi. "Second Harvest continues to expand services to meet the needs of our neighbors who are struggling with food insecurity."

Media Information

What: Second Harvest Produce Express distribution for new clients
Where: 1507 Grimm Drive, Erie, PA 16501
When: Thursday, June 4th at 2:30 p.m.

Extra safety measures are being taken by Second Harvest to ensure the health and protection of those involved. These include:

- Staff and volunteers will only load food items into the trunk of the vehicle during the distribution, and not inside the vehicle. Clients need to keep the trunks of their vehicles empty and clean.
- Food will be distributed in a no-touch, drive-thru only format.
- Those receiving food need to be in a vehicle only. Walk-up clients cannot be served.
- For safety reasons, Second Harvest strongly encourages as few people inside the client's vehicle as possible.
- Everyone inside the vehicle must wear a mask or face covering during the duration of the distribution. If anyone inside the vehicle is not wearing a mask or face covering, they must pull their vehicle over to a designated area and load the food items into their vehicle.

Social physical distancing, and the overall safety of our staff, volunteers and clients, is of the utmost importance during these uncertain times.

Participation in the Produce Express is free. By making fresh, healthy produce available to those who normally would not have access to it, Second Harvest is working to encourage the community to eat healthier and make better nutritional choices. When available, Produce Express distributions also include other grocery items and non-food essentials.

Those interested in participating in this Produce Express distribution must call (814) 459-3663 x 117 to pre-register for the event before June 3rd at 12 p.m.

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About the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania

The mission of the Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania is to provide food to those in need within 11 counties of northwest Pennsylvania while creating awareness and educating the community on the realities of hunger. Last year, Second Harvest distributed 9.6 million meals through an anti-hunger network of 399 partner organizations. Second Harvest serves the following 11 counties in northwest Pennsylvania: Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Venango and Warren.