



HARVESTERS
COMMUNITY FOOD NETWORK

Agency Connections

A newsletter for Harvesters' network partners

Agency Offers New Program for Clients

Prescriptive pantry available for diabetic clients

One of Harvesters' partner agencies is taking a unique approach to help clients with diabetes have a healthier diet. Samuel Rodgers Health Center's prescriptive food initiative offers three ways for clients to live a healthier life.

With a grant from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, Rodgers Health and its partners designed a program that provides a specially designed food box of nonperishable, healthy, diabetes-friendly food items, along with opportunities and vouchers to purchase fresh produce from Truman Medical Center's mobile market and an exercise membership to the Aguirre Community Center. The nonperishable food is provided by Harvesters on a monthly basis.

Danaee Molina, Care Coordinator at Samuel Rodgers, who works with the program participants says the program began late last fall and currently has 25 individuals in the program. "With our grant funding we will be able to assist up to 100 individuals," she said. To date, participants are very pleased with the program.

"It's helped me out since my food stamps have stopped. I still have healthy food options – it's been a blessing. I don't have to worry about what I'm going to eat, where it's going to come from. You know it's one less thing I have to worry about," says Juanita B., one of the program participants.

Healthy food items distributed through the prescriptive food pantry include oats, beans, vegetables, fruits, canola oil, shelf stable milk, and seasonings. The Center's health team also provides health and nutrition counseling to the participants.



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A Note from Program Services



Hello Agency Partners,

We know it takes a lot of time, energy, and support to do the work that you do each day.

In this issue, you will find information to connect your organization with innovative partners, resources for practical program tips, and details for the network's upcoming annual Agency Conferences.

Some favorite resources I regularly refer to include:

- Harvesters' Agency Resource page where you can find our current Agency Handbook, helpful templates to ensure program compliance, up-to-date information on food safety and best practices, agency tools, and insight on all the programs you can offer in partnership with Harvesters. www.harvesters.org/agencies/resources
- Feeding America's Hunger and Health website where you will find relevant data and research focusing on the intersection of hunger and health. www.hungerandhealth.feedingamerica.org

Harvesters is working to update the Agency Handbook and create some helpful agency toolkits. Watch for more information by email on these enhanced resources and learn more at the Agency Conferences!

Finally, don't forget about your peers across the Agency Network as a wonderful resource. Connect with others by joining the Agency Facebook page. Post and share your ideas and questions! www.tinyurl.com/partneragencies.

Thank you for your ongoing commitment to providing the best service you can to people in need in this region. I hope that you find the resources in this newsletter to be beneficial in enhancing your work.

As always, feel free to contact me directly with feedback or ideas at jkejr@harvesters.org or 816-929-3045.

Sincerely,

Jessica Kejr
Director of Program Services
Harvesters-The Community Food Network



Speak Up, Sign On

Support a strong Farm Bill

President Trump released his fiscal year 2019 budget proposal last month, and it calls for deep cuts in SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) and other federal nutrition programs.

We hope your agency will sign on to Harvesters' network-wide sign-on letter detailing that we believe a strong Farm Bill needs a safety net for both farmers and consumers. Our goal is to get at least 50 Harvesters agencies and partners to sign on.

You can read and sign on to the letter here.

www.tinyurl.com/ycnhxaz7k



Compliance Corner

Storage Information

We know all food items must be stored six inches off the floor. But, did you know this also applies to non-food items, such as paper towels, toilet paper, boxes, and cleaning supplies? In addition to being stored off the floor, all household products should be stored separately from food items.

Questions? Contact us at customer@harvesters.org.





Hunger and Health Resources

AHA, ADA and more

Harvesters works with many wonderful partners. Check out the following information from some of our partners:

American Heart Association

Harvesters is partnering with the American Heart Association to bring new resources to our agencies, as we know 67 percent of families we serve have hypertension. The AHA has wonderful resources to offer. Watch your email for other innovative, new ways to get involved!

www.heart.org/HEARTORG

Nutrition Month

March is National Nutrition Month! The Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics has some ideas you could use at your agency to celebrate and promote health. www.tinyurl.com/y7hz7msk

American Diabetes Association

Did you know diabetes affects 32 percent of families visiting pantries in Harvesters' region? Another 30 percent of Americans have prediabetes, and most do not know it. There are ways to prevent and manage diabetes. The American Diabetes Association www.diabetes.org is a great place to start to find resources for your guests' health. MyFood Advisor www.diabetes.org/myfoodadvisor shares recipes, substitutions, carb counting, and more!

Harvesters also hosted a webinar to showcase what some of our partnering agencies are already doing related to diabetes, and give ideas for your agency to implement. www.tinyurl.com/y9hzldoh



Midwest Marketing Associates

MMA assists Harvesters' Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) team. MMA helps people with Medicaid and Medicare benefits. In addition to referring SNAP applicants to Harvesters, they also can help people in applying for SNAP benefits. MMA is interested in working directly at agencies to connect pantry guests to resources to access healthcare. For more information, please visit www.askmma.com or call toll-free at 1.877.279.7070.



GiveHealthy

Looking for ideas for a healthy food drive? Check out GiveHealthy to host a free online perishable food drive in your community. Many pantry guests visiting Harvesters' partners ask for more fresh fruits and vegetables. GiveHealthy is a great way to get more fresh fruits and vegetables to your clients! Learn more at www.givehealthy.org.

MARCH



NEIGHBOR TO NEIGHBOR KANSAS FOOD DRIVE MARCH 1-31

This food drive is an opportunity for Kansans to reduce hunger across the state. Nonperishable food donations to this food drive are accepted at all Dillons grocery stores.

APRIL



TAKE YOUR CANTO WORK/SCHOOL DAY APRIL 11

One in seven people in our community is hungry. If every person in our region brought one can of nonperishable food to work or school or donated \$1, we would be able to make a major impact on hunger in our community!

MAY



RED NOSE DAY MAY 24

Through the power of entertainment, Red Nose Day raises awareness and money to help the kids who need us most, both at home and around the world. A live broadcast on NBC airs this day.

For a full list of events, visit:
www.harvesters.org

HUNGER IN THE NEWS

Read these stories and stay up-to-date on the latest hunger news at:
harvesters.org/agencies/hungernews

Who's Able-Bodied Anyway?
New York Times

Counting the Beans: New Tool Measures the True Cost of Food, *Food Tank*

While We Waste Food, Others Waste Away, *Baltimore Sun*

Food Stamp Program Makes Fresh Produce More Affordable, *NPR*



Learn. Share. Grow

Save the Date

2018 Agency Conferences

Mark your calendars now for the 2018 Agency Conferences!
Two dates and two locations!

- Kansas City – Tuesday, May 15, 2018
- Topeka – Thursday, May 17, 2018

Watch your email for more information to come and a link to RSVP.
We look forward to seeing you there! Have a topic you hope we cover?
Let us know at customer care@harvesters.org.

New Online Resources

Power up your Pantry

The University of Missouri's Interdisciplinary Center for Food Security now has new resources for you. "Power Up Your Pantry" is a series of bite-sized educational guides for food pantries and other hunger relief groups. They offer ways to enhance current operations and better meet the needs of the people who use their services. Check them out at <http://foodsecurity.missouri.edu/power-up>



Join the Agency Facebook Page

Be a part of the conversation!

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.