Back to School and Ready to Learn, With Your Help!
A letter from the President & CEO

Back to School and Ready to Learn

Dear Friend,

Another school year has begun, and I can almost feel the buzz of excitement as thousands of boys and girls in our community head back to the classroom to meet their teachers, play with friends and learn new things. However, some students are starting this semester at a disadvantage because they’re at risk of hunger.

School breakfasts and lunches have resumed, but many kids are still vulnerable on evenings and weekends because their families struggle financially. This is a big problem for a growing number of students. Without proper nourishment, children are more susceptible to behavior problems in the classroom and have trouble focusing on their studies. Because you believe in the mission of Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee and choose to give generously, we’re able to connect kids in need with nutritious food.

With your help, we’re distributing meals and groceries to our Partner Agencies. Whether it’s through the Backpack Program, Kids Cafe sites or other initiatives, the end result is always the same — children are better equipped for a bright future when they are fed.

When you read the real stories in this edition of Table Topics, I hope you’ll think about your role in the fight against hunger and what it means to the kids we serve together, like Allison and her brother, Kevin, who you’ll meet on the following page.

Sincerely,

Jaynee K. Day
President & CEO

OUR MISSION
TO FEED HUNGRY PEOPLE
AND WORK TO SOLVE
HUNGER ISSUES IN OUR
COMMUNITY

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Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee partners with schools and feeding sites in our community, like McMurray Middle Prep, which hosts a Kids Cafe and School Food Pantry Program for their students and other local children and families in need.

Today, Allison comes to McMurray Middle with her little brother, Kevin, to enjoy a healthy afterschool meal at the Kids Cafe before their mom, Maria, picks them up this evening.

Through this Second Harvest partnership, Maria also has access to the school food pantry on site, where she can pick up some of Allison and Kevin’s favorite foods that are often difficult to afford on her limited income.

Allison’s excited to be able to visit the pantry with her family. Clearly a bright child, she knows the food they receive will help ensure she and her brother can grow up strong and healthy — and she’s grateful for your help provide it.

“You give us food to survive,” Allison says, matter-of-factly.

Through these programs, kids from struggling families can receive a balanced meal and healthy groceries so they won’t have to face the uncertainty of hunger — and kids like Allison can focus on their studies.

Before she and the children head home for the day, Maria stops to express her gratitude for your help feeding Allison and Kevin.

“Thank you for the food!” she says with a warm smile.

We can’t do our work without people like you. Through your generosity, we have been able to make a difference in the lives of thousands of kids who attend local afterschool programs like McMurray Middle. Together, we’re helping students and their families through Hunger Free Summer, and we know that wouldn’t be possible without your support.

Thank you for all you do. Your faith in this work is what makes all of our successes possible.

Sincerely,

Jaynee K. Day
President & CEO

Our Culinary Arts Center offers faculty rental and catering services — on- and off-site catering available.

Learn more at secondharvestmidtn.org/cac or call 615-329-3491

You can view past issues of our newsletter and our current donor acknowledgement page online at secondharvestmidtn.org/newsroom. Your suggestions and comments for Table Topics are always appreciated! Please send an email to news@secondharvestmidtn.org

When you read the real stories in this edition of Table Topics, I hope you’ll think about your role in the fight against hunger and what it means to the kids we serve together, like Allison and her brother, Kevin, who you’ll meet on the following page.

Right around the corner, we will be recognizing Hunger Action Month in September. I hope you’ll lend your voice to help raise awareness about the importance of hunger relief.

Thank you for all you do. Your help raise awareness about the childhood hunger doesn’t have to happen though — you proved this by helping make it a Hunger Free Summer for thousands of boys and girls in our community. Because you believe in the mission of Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee and choose to give generously, we’re able to connect kids in need with nutritious food.

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Allison, 8, is an avid reader and enthusiastic about school. She loves to read historical biographies, and lights up as she shares what she’s learning with those around her.

With a new school year now underway, Allison’s excited to continue reading and learning. But like all kids, she needs nutritious food to be able to concentrate on her studies. That’s why Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee partners with schools and feeding sites in our community, like McMurray Middle Prep, which hosts a Kids Cafe and School Food Pantry Program for their students and other local children and families in need.

Today, Allison comes to McMurray Middle with her little brother, Kevin, to enjoy a healthy afterschool meal at the Kids Cafe before their mom, Maria, picks them up this evening.

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“Thank you for the food!” she says with a warm smile.

It’s a huge day for Allison and Kevin.

Allison’s Family
Appreciates Your Help

[You] give us food to survive.

ALLISON, MARIA AND KEVIN
JAYNEE K. DAY WINS THE 2016 JOHN VAN HENGEI AWARD

Jaynee Day was honored with the John van Hengel Fellowship Award at the Feeding America Spring Network Leadership Conference in Houston, Texas for her strategic leadership, local impact and national influence, long-time commitment and vision! Join us in congratulating Jaynee for her dedicated leadership and entrepreneurial spirit over the past 28 years that has made such an impact on the lives of so many!

ROSEY AND AMANDA

Your Gifts Are Changing Lives!

THANK YOU!

HUNGER FREE SUMMER

Thank you for supporting the $125,000 matching gift summer challenge provided by UnitedHealthcare® and generous anonymous donors. These combined efforts helped us achieve our goal of providing 4 million summer meals to help Middle Tennessee families and children in need. Thank you for caring about our hungry neighbors during the tough summer months.

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ISIAH

HUNGER ACTION MONTH

This September, join us for Hunger Action Month as food banks across the country unite to raise awareness and encourage our communities to take action in the fight against hunger. Visit our website at secondharvestmidtn.org and follow the hashtag #HungerActionTN to learn how you can take action. Be sure to wear orange on Thursday, September 8 for Hunger Action Day. Thank you to our local sponsors Kroger and Lee Company for supporting Hunger Action Month.

DR. ANNUAL HARVEST MOON BALL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH, 2016

Join Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee for a festive evening of fun, fine wines, a delectable menu, live entertainment and, most of all, hope. All funds raised from the event will benefit Second Harvest’s Feeding Programs serving children, families and seniors at risk of hunger throughout 46 counties in Middle and West Tennessee. For more information, contact Chelsey Wells at chelsey.wells@secondharvestmidtn.org or 615-627-1565.

NICOLE SUYDAM, CEO OF SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF ORANGE COUNTY, WITH JAYNEE DAY

THANK YOU!

FOOD 2 FAMILIES

Second Harvest & WKRN News 2 are teaming up for the annual Food 2 Families school food drive. Elementary, middle, and high schools are encouraged to participate in the food drive running through the end of October. Food 2 Families is not only an opportunity for our local schools to help fight hunger in Middle Tennessee, but also an opportunity to show school children that they too can make a difference.

Last year, over 70 local schools participated and students donated more than $20,000 items – we hope to make this year even bigger!

Thank you to our sponsors WKRN, Kroger, The Nashville Zoo at Grassmere, The Adventure Science Center and the Sudekum Planetarium, and Cornerstone Financial for their support of the Food 2 Families food drive. Visit secondharvestmidtn.org/food2families to learn more and register your school.

TENNESSEE TITANS FOOD DRIVE SPONSORED BY KROGER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2016

Help tackle hunger by supporting the Titans Food Drive on Sunday, September 25th. On game day, bring nonperishable food items to the charity drop off points located around the stadium. With your help we can provide food to those struggling with hunger in our community.

33RD ANNUAL HARVEST MOON BALL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH, 2016

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Feeding Hope™
ABOUT FARM TO FAMILIES
This Second Harvest program engages farmers, community volunteers and Partner Agencies to provide local, fresh and nutritious food to those in need while ensuring less goes to waste. The program also offers a unique volunteer experience for people in the community to help grow and harvest crops. We have immediate openings for community volunteers and Partner Agencies to provide local, fresh and nutritious food to those in need while ensuring less goes to waste. The program also offers a unique volunteer experience for people in the community to help grow and harvest crops. We have immediate openings for

Fighting Hunger Down on the Farm

several years ago, Lori Birckhead made a decision that would change her life forever. Driven by her faith, Lori and her husband, Jim, put their house on the market and purchased a 90-acre farm they planned to use to help feed their hungry neighbors.

At first, there were a number of challenges that had to be overcome. For example, neither Lori nor her husband had a background in farming or agriculture. But with time, and the dedication of the local farmers they partner with, By Faith Farm was up and running. Today, the farm fights hunger in two ways — through the farmers themselves who use the land to grow their crops, and by hosting a donation garden.

Stacy Geny and his wife, Sonia, are two food entrepreneurs and tenant farmers who can now give back to the community thanks to By Faith Farm. Most of the surplus produce they don’t sell at market goes to Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee. This usually amounts to about 80 to 100 pounds of fruits and vegetables every week!

But Stacy and his wife don’t stop there. Right now, the couple and several Second Harvest volunteers are working hard to cultivate more than 20 rows of crops to be donated. It’s truly a community effort — one that Stacy says wouldn’t be successful if volunteers weren’t available to weed and harvest.

We’re so thankful to Lori, Jim and the farmers at By Faith Farms for your commitment to fighting hunger. With your help — and the countless hours put in by Second Harvest volunteers — more families can access the healthy, nutritious food they need to thrive!

Thank You for Helping Children at Risk of Hunger

Channoty Robinson works at Kirkpatrick Community Center, a Second Harvest Partner Agency in Nashville. One of her favorite parts of her job is overseeing the Center’s At-Risk Afterschool Program, now in its second year.

Channoty remembers having to pay for extra food out of her own pocket to feed the kids that she serves and cares so much about. She mostly picked up healthier items like apples, oranges and granola bars, but this became expensive. She doesn’t know how much longer she could have continued without help.

Now, every afternoon during the school year, girls and boys ages 6 to 14 stop by the center for a balanced, filling after-school meal and stay for a number of fun activities. These include everything from dance classes to basketball to skating.

Thank you a million times,“ Channoty says, on behalf of the children in her care. “Please continue to give — it really does make a difference.”

“Child’s name has been changed.”

For Channoty, the most important part of the program — besides the food you help provide through your gifts to Second Harvest — is the opportunity she has to teach kids about good nutrition.

“The younger you teach them about healthy food, the better it will stick,” she explains.

“Thank you a million times.”
Joshua Jacob has a very important job to do this afternoon. But he wouldn’t be able to do it without the generosity of Second Harvest supporters like you.

As director of family resources at Bordeaux Elementary, Joshua oversees the BackPack Program at the end of every school week. Through this initiative, students receive a bag full of kid-friendly food items to eat over the weekend. It’s a relief for Joshua to know the kids won’t go hungry.

“It gives them the opportunity to have something to take home and have on the weekends when they may not have food in the house,” he says. Because nearly every child at the school comes from a low-income household, this resource is a real help. All of the parents Joshua has met want their kids to be happy and healthy. But with so many expenses putting a strain on their finances, affording enough groceries can be difficult for these hardworking families. For many kids, participation in the BackPack Program means the difference between eating and going hungry on the weekend.

In addition to providing food, the BackPack Program helps Joshua learn about other needs in the school’s community. He says every child enrolled in the program takes home a letter for their parents with questions about any other needs the family may have. This helps Joshua and his team find solutions for other problems that might be keeping a child from learning.

By fighting hunger with us, you're playing an active role in removing major obstacles to the health and success of young people across Middle Tennessee. Speaking as someone who actually sees the work you make possible every day, Joshua thanks you for being a part of helping students succeed.

“You are the village that’s raising these children,” he says.

To learn more about getting involved, join our online community @ 2HarvestMidTN

Or visit us online at secondharvestmidtn.org
We are so grateful for the extensive community support that Second Harvest received this past quarter. Thanks to all of you for your volunteer hours, donated food, services and financial contributions!

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We are so grateful for the extensive community support that Second Harvest received this past quarter. Thanks to all of you for your volunteer hours, donated food, goods, services and financial contributions!

The following corporations who have donated $500 or more:

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