Students Are Back In School and Ready to Succeed!

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Dear Friend,

When I was a little girl, I just loved the start of a new school year. The days leading up to the first day of class were filled with so much excitement — wondering what my new teachers would be like, and wondering what my class would be like. Maybe you have similar memories.

But those were simpler times. Throughout my tenure at Second Harvest Middle Tennessee, I’ve learned that many boys and girls look forward to the start of classes for a much different reason — access to regular meals.

Over the summer break, breakfast and lunches aren’t provided every day. Through the BackPack Program, one of the many hunger-fighting initiatives you support, boys like Abel can have on young minds and bodies.

On page 8, you’ll read about one group of kids who are thrilled to be among those who benefit from the food you help provide every day. Through the BackPack Program, one of the many hunger-fighting initiatives you support, boys like Abel won’t have to worry about missing meals when they’re not at school.

With September right around the corner, we’ll once again be celebrating Hunger Action Month.

I urge you to please help make this back-to-school season one where every boy and girl we serve has enough to eat. This is the best possible investment you could make in the future of our community.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Jayne K. Day
President & CEO

Ad Hoc Member
Sylvia Roberts
Young Leaders Intern
Caleb Ragan
Chris Petra
President & CEO
Jaynee K. Day

Students Across Middle Tennessee Have Food, Thanks to You!

As classes resume this fall, thousands of children across Middle Tennessee are looking forward to the renewed stability of school meals. But it’s the generous support of our community that makes it possible for kids to eat healthy over the weekends too. The bright, young students at Buena Vista Enhanced Option Elementary School are just one example of gifts in action.

Megan McGuire is the Community Achievers site manager at Buena Vista. She provides a wide variety of vital resources to the students and families at the school, including food, clothing, referrals, volunteer opportunities and more.

According to Megan, Buena Vista is a “100 percent need” school. By that means that every student has a basic need — often including adequate access to nutritious food — that requires the support of our caring donors to be met. She said that the generosity, which makes initiatives like the BackPack Program possible is a true lifesaver.

At the beginning of each year, Megan sends a flyer home letting students and parents know about the resources available, including the food your gifts help provide. This past school year, she personally served 114 children with Second Harvest BackPacks filled with nutritious food.

“Behavior is the area where [your gifts] are most impactful,” said Megan.

Megan recalls a child who was acting out in class. He was grumpy, frustrated and generally defiant toward his teachers. Like she does with most kids, Megan first checked to see if the child was hungry. He was. After receiving a snack, Megan said he had a much better day.

This school year, more students will once again need help getting the healthy food they need. Your continued generosity will give them the fuel to stay focused and ready to learn.

“I just want to extend appreciation,” said Megan. “Thank you for ensuring local children have the healthy meals they need to thrive!”
Local Kids and Their Families Are So Grateful for You!

**Feeding Hope™**

**HUNGER ACTION MONTH**

An empty stomach makes it difficult for people to reach their full potential. This September, join us in celebrating Hunger Action Month, a nationwide initiative designed to mobilize the community to raise awareness about the struggles and effects of hunger. Visit our website, secondharvestmidtn.org and follow the hashtag #HungerActionTN to learn how you can take action to help end hunger. Be sure to go orange for hunger relief on Thursday, September 14 for Hunger Action Day. Thank you to our local sponsors Farm Bureau Health Plans, Kroger and Lee Company.

**TENNESSEE TITANS FOOD DRIVE**

Sunday, September 24, 2017

On game day, help tackle hunger by bringing 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.

Thank you to Kroger for sponsoring this year’s Titans Food Drive!

**34TH ANNUAL HARVEST MOON**

Saturday, November 11, 2017

Loveless Barn

Please join Second Harvest, along with Event Chairs Lynne Warne and Debra Taylor, for a wonderful evening of classic Southern food, entertainment by Super T Revue, honored donors, and an incredible auction. All funds raised will benefit Second Harvest’s Feeding Programs serving children, families and seniors at-risk of hunger throughout 46 counties in Middle and West Tennessee. Sponsorship and individual ticket opportunities are available. For more information, please contact Chelsey Wells at chelsey.wells@secondharvestmidtn.org or 615-627-1565.

**YOU DID IT!**

You showed how much you truly care about our hungry neighbors through your overwhelming response to the $178,000 matching gift challenge, all in an effort to reach our goal of providing 4 million summer meals to families in need. Because of you, children across Middle Tennessee received the food they needed and are ready to start a new school year. Thank you for caring about our hungry neighbors during the tough summer months.
Children At Project S.E.E. Are Grateful For You!

You’ll never know the depth of assistance this provides the community.

- Cynthia Macon Gordon, Project S.E.E. executive director

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MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF NASHVILLE

The Rotary Club of Nashville Cares!

Throughout its history, the Rotary Club of Nashville has worked hard to serve the needs of the local community. It began partnering with Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee in 2002 through a joint holiday campaign called “Feed the Need.”

This campaign, which involves Club members assembling food boxes and delivering them to elderly and disabled members of the community, is now an annual holiday tradition for many of the roughly 600 members of the Club.

“Our partnership with Second Harvest is the cornerstone of our members’ community service,” says Suzanne Buchanan, Executive Director for the Rotary Club of Nashville.

In an effort to give Club members more opportunities to serve throughout the year, the leadership decided to expand its work with Second Harvest. Today a team of volunteers visits our warehouse every month to help assemble healthy packs of food for the BackPack Program. Because many Rotarians are parents and grandparents themselves, serving children comes naturally to them.

In addition to their volunteer service, the Rotary Club of Nashville has contributed more than $500,000 towards ending hunger in Middle Tennessee. Second Harvest will name a volunteer room in its Martin Distribution Center in honor of this significant partnership. Club members look forward to packing many more BackPacks in the Rotary Room.

At Second Harvest, we are so very grateful for our partners at the Rotary Club of Nashville. Thank you so much for going above and beyond to ensure hungry children and families have access to nourishing food!

The back-to-school season is a busy time at Project S.E.E., one of Second Harvest’s many faith-based Partner Agencies. Each August, Cynthia Macon Gordon, the executive director and pastor, oversees an annual event for local students that includes the distribution of uniforms, backpacks and other essentials for the first day of class.

But this is only the start of their year-long service to this community’s most vulnerable students. Cynthia said that one of Project S.E.E.’s main programs is the Kids Cafe, which is provided in partnership with Second Harvest to offer meals, snacks and nutrition education to at-risk children during the school year and summer months.

In her five years at Project S.E.E., Cynthia has seen the impact of your gifts on hundreds of boys and girls who come to the program to receive food and educational services.

Every day of the school year, the students from families with low incomes stop in for a healthy after-school snack and stay for tutoring and mentoring services in science, math, language arts, reading and social studies. On Thursdays, the children are given a hot meal, something that few of them can count on regularly at home. And as the children prepare to leave each evening, Cynthia and the staff at Project S.E.E. make sure each child receives another nutritious snack before they go.

Second Harvest also partners with Project S.E.E. to teach the children healthy eating habits, including how to choose the right foods from the grocery store. Cynthia said that many of the children now make healthier eating choices when they are away from the program.

"You’ll never know the depth of assistance this provides the community," Cynthia said, expressing her gratitude for your support.

Having access to food is so important to academic success. Your donations provide the children at Project S.E.E. with the nourishment they need until they return to school the next day. Given the many health risks that can come with missing meals, your generosity is doing much more than filling stomachs; it’s keeping students in school instead of at the doctor’s office. Thank you for making a difference in the health of these children.

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Thank You for Nourishing Students in Need!

When the school day ends, not every child at Glenview Elementary has a nutritious meal they can count on when they get home. Every year, Olivia Brown, the school counselor, meets students whose families could use just a little extra help ensuring their needs are met. Many are going through a difficult time — some might even be homeless.

Olivia does her best to ensure each boy and girl at Glenview will still have consistent meals over the weekends when they’re unable to access food from school by sending home a BackPack full of healthy, kid-friendly food with every child that needs one.

The BackPack Program serves kids from struggling families each week. During our last chat with Olivia, she said that many children would be at risk of going hungry if not for this special safety net made available by generous donors like you.

This fall will mark Olivia’s fourth year being involved in the program. In that time, she’s always a little shocked by how candid the kids are about their situations.

“They are very open about their needs,” Olivia said. “It’s heartbreaking to hear ‘I don’t have any food when I go home.’”

For Olivia and her colleagues, these bags of food help teachers identify kids who may need additional services. In many cases, students’ performance in class goes up once they receive the support they need to succeed. On behalf of the boys and girls at Glenview, Olivia expressed her sincere gratitude for all you do to make this possible.

“Thank you,” she said. “[You’ve] been really helpful for the kids and families that struggle with hunger.”

[You’ve] been really helpful for the kids and families that struggle with hunger.

- Olivia Brown,
  Glenview Elementary
  School Counselor

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

Or visit us online at secondharvestmidtn.org
Special Thanks

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 organizations and individuals for donations received through food drives:

ABC Supply Company
Advance Med
Aldi
Arby's
Batten Shaw Construction
Battle Ground Academy
Beaver Dam Marina
Belmont University Athletics Sports Medicine
Bishop's Storehouse LDS Church
BOMA Nashville
Brookmeade Congregation Church of the UCC
Caney Fork Farms
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Dole
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Feeding Children Everywhere
Feeding Texas
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Flavor First Growers
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Forgotten Harvest
Fortune Growers
Fresh Market Hendersonville
Fresh Point
Frito-Lay FAYETTEVILLE
Frito-Lay NASHVILLE
Fruit Growers Marketing
General Mills
Gentry Farm
Georgia Food Bank of Association
Georgia Pacific
Giving Garden
Go Oo Cluster LLC
Goodwill (Donations)
Graham Farms
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Gumz Muck Farm
H.G. Hills
Harry's Fresh Foods
Hartley Produce
Hatch Valley Produce
HB Specialty Foods
Heritage Express
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Hilandale Farms
Hillshire Farms
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Hughes Farm
Hunt Brothers Pizza LLC
IGA Food Liner
Institutional Wholesale Co. Donation
Interfaith Dental
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JAFF Transport
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Martin Transport
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McAlister Farms/Johnny McAlister
McCabe's Pub
McCain Food
McCortney Produce
Me Transport
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Northern Illinois Foodbank
O'Charley's, Inc.
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Old School Farms
On The Road Again Trucking
Open Road Distributing
Outback Steakhouse
Palm Commodities
Palmer Food Service
Punera
Papa John's Pizza
Penzeys Spices
Pepe's Pizza
Performance Food Group (PFG)
Petgo Produce
Phoenix Foods
Pine Hill Trucking
Pinnacle Choice Food, Inc.
P.F.'s Ice Cream
Plowboy Produce Auction
Pollo Tropical
Prairie Farms
Premiere Food Service
Pride Group
Prime Inc.
Prime Trucking
Proctor & Gamble Company
Pro Health
Publix
Purity Dairies
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**The following corporations who have donated $500 or more:**

- Allstate Insurance Company Foundation
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- Ameriprise Financial
- Anthem Associate Giving Campaign
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- BIC Charitable Lead Annuity Trust
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- City of Murfreesboro, Tennessee
- Clark Legacy Foundation
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- Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program
- Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation
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- Subway Franchise World
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- Tennessee Farmers Cooperative
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- United Way of Wilson County
- UPS
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- Viacom Cable
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- Waste Industries
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