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You Restored Hope to a Murfreesboro Family.
Dear Friend,

Teachers tell us that on the last day of school, some kids are sad to leave because school is the only place they get enough to eat. Our local children are heading into the hungriest time of year, when they lose access to school’s free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches. One in five children in Middle and West Tennessee will go hungry unless we intervene.

We all like to think of our Partner Agencies, or organizations that work with families who have children to provide nutritious food to children and their families in our 46-county service area. Your gifts make a difference in children’s lives every day — especially as the school year winds down.

Whether a child enjoys a balanced meal at one of our Partner Agencies, or parents make kids’ favorite foods from Mobile Pantry groceries, you make it possible. With each meal you provide, children can worry a little less about what they’ll eat. Instead, they can play, laugh, and grow.

As summer approaches, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for caring for children in your community. If you read some of their stories in this issue, you’ll have an even better understanding of how much you matter to these kids.

Gratefully,

Jaynee K. Day
President & CEO

Thank You for Feeding Vulnerable Children

Letter from the President & CEO

Kids Will Eat Fresh Veggies This Summer, Thanks to You!

It might surprise you if you ask 4-year-old Tyler what his favorite foods are...

Turnip greens, broccoli, and carrots (with a little ranch dip on the side, please)!

Your donations make it possible for him to eat his favorite foods a lot more often.

It’s a good thing they have here.

The nutritious food you’re giving Tyler now will prepare him to learn and grow this fall when he starts Pre-Kindergarten.

Tyler’s parents, Vanessa and James, couldn’t be more grateful.

We met Tyler’s family at Helping Hands of Humphreys County. They waited patiently in their car while volunteers unloaded a Second Harvest truck with its twice-monthly delivery of fresh fruits, veggies, and other perishable items.

Their family is living on a fixed income. Vanessa is diabetic, and it’s challenging to find food she can eat while on a tight budget. Insulin and other medical costs add up to almost $200 each month.

“It’s a good thing they have here,” Vanessa said of the food pantry. “Vanessa knows other families who’ve been helped by the food pantry, too. She said without it, “There would be a lot of hungry families.”

Thank you for helping kids like Tyler and his parents get the nutrition they need to keep them all healthy and strong!

Find past issues of our newsletter and donor acknowledgment page at secondharvestmidtn.org/news-room.

Teacher Saw Her Hungry Students Struggle Monthly Giving Makes a Difference

A t first, 8th grade teacher Polly Bassoni was puzzled why so many of her students asked to see the school nurse every morning. She eventually discovered that every day, the nurse brought peanut butter, bread, and milk to her office. Kids who had nothing to eat at home for breakfast knew if they saw the nurse, they’d eat.

After 30 years, Polly retired. But that memory stuck. It’s what motivated her to become a monthly donor to Second Harvest 15 years ago. Polly said although she doesn’t have a lot of money, she knows her small, monthly donations add up to make a big difference.

The Sumner County resident loves that her gifts help Gallatin teachers connect with their struggling students through food from the School Food Pantry and Backpack Program.

If you want to join forces with Polly as a Second Helpings monthly donor, sign up at secondharvestmidtn.org/monthly.
BLOCK PARTY BLOW-OUT  
**Ode to Otha | JUNE 2**
Treat the family to some summer fun! Ode to Otha is the ultimate block party, with live music, kid-friendly activities, and food galore. Bill and Lisa Ramsey host this bash every year to honor their friend Otha Turner, a farmer and legendary musician. He played a homemade, bamboo cane fife until he died at age 94.

Join us from 2 to 9 p.m. June 2 at 1711 Sweetbriar Avenue in Nashville. Kids 12 and younger get in free. Adults pay $30 at the door, and proceeds benefit Second Harvest. Learn more at othaturner.com.

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You’re Making It a Hunger Free Summer in Middle Tennessee!

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STARS FOR SECOND HARVEST  
**Ryman Concert | June 5**
Don’t wait: Tickets always sell out for our Stars for Second Harvest benefit concert, which has previously featured superstars such as Blake Shelton, Dierks Bentley, and Florida Georgia Line. Plan to be at Nashville’s historic Ryman Auditorium at 6:30 p.m. June 5. See the lineup and buy tickets at secondharvestmidtn.org/stars.

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BE A FARMER FOR A DAY  
**Green thumb not required**
Come on down to the farm, ya’ll! Through our Farm to Families program, your sweat equity helps provide fresh, local produce to hungry people in Middle Tennessee. At our partner farms, volunteer tasks are available for ages 7 and up, and may include weeding, mulching and harvesting. Learn about local agriculture, gain some gardening skills, help prevent food waste, and feel good knowing you’re filling someone’s empty plate with healthy food. Sign up at secondharvestmidtn.org/farm.
Second Harvest began its mission to feed hungry people and work to solve hunger issues in our community back in 1978, and Purity Dairies has been a generous partner from the start.

"It’s been a really natural partnership, and it’s been us who have been blessed," said Mark Ezell, a former General Manager of Purity Dairies, and grandson of Purity founder, Miles Ezell. Mark also served on the Second Harvest Board of Directors for six years.

Mark’s family owned Purity Dairies until 1998, and Mark worked there for an additional 20 years under the new ownership of Dean Foods. He retired this year, but he said he’s grateful that Dean Foods continues the partnership between Purity and Second Harvest.

“The company’s generosity has made a big difference to Second Harvest over the years. Purity made it possible for Second Harvest to obtain a refrigerated truck and also made their refrigerated trucks available when there were large donations of food that needed to be picked up. And, most significantly, Purity donates dairy products when there’s a surplus or when products have been mismarked.

"Helping Second Harvest provide food to those who can’t obtain it…what a worthy cause for Purity Dairies to be involved in," Mark said.

Mark mentioned Purity feels good about the fact that Second Harvest has not only provided vital resources to the local community, but has also served as a regional and national leader for other hunger-relief organizations.

“We really trust the Food Bank, and that they will really deliver on their mission," he said.

Second Harvest couldn’t reach as many people in need without the substantial generosity of community partners like Purity Dairies and Dean Foods. We’re so grateful!”

Second Harvest truck filled with fresh produce.

“The food pantry is really good,” she said. “It’s a real big help to the community.”

“I was able to give my kids a meal!”

Tekki recently found work as a Head Start Family Counselor. Your donations made it possible for her to look for work and find a home without sacrificing her children’s nutrition.

“Thank you for providing,” she says. “I was able to give my kids a meal.”

Not only can Tekki now confidently feed her children, but she’s able to give them the healthy food that she couldn’t otherwise afford. She’s thankful that neighbors like you cared and made such a difference for her family when they were most in need.
Lisa wants you to know that your gifts have inspired her and her family – even as they receive your gifts of food, they are looking for ways to give what they can to others.

“[You] helped us,” Lisa said. “We figured it would be best to give back.”

Lisa and her husband are raising two kids, 15-year-old Caleb and 8-year-old Essie. With limited income and poor health, the parents are thankful their children receive free lunch at school. But food runs short quickly at home during the summer when school is out.

“When you’re a parent and you can’t feed your children, it [feels like] a sickness,” Lisa said.

Lisa and her husband travel 30 minutes to get to Graceworks Ministries, a Second Harvest Partner Agency in Fairview. But the trip and gas spent to get there are always worth it. They receive groceries from the food pantry to provide for their family, but they also take away inspiration to give what they can to others.

Lisa and Caleb both volunteer through Graceworks – Caleb often helps pack boxes for food distribution at his school. He also serves in a mentor program in their community.

“I think it’s great because he learns that giving back is just as important as receiving,” Lisa said of her son.

This summer, Lisa is especially thankful that you’re making it possible for her family to get the nutrition they need to keep them healthy enough to serve others.

“Thank you for your support,” said Lisa. “You have no idea what you’ve done to help so many people.”
This is what sustains us — we've gone without before, "Patrick says.

Second Harvest is so grateful for last quarter's extensive community support. Thanks to all of you for your volunteer hours, financial contributions, and donated food, goods, and services!

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- Green Door Gourmet
- H.G. Hills Cheatham Co
- Haben Trucking
- Ham Produce Company
Thanks to our DONORS!

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