September is national Hunger Action Month™. Feeding America, our national affiliate, is asking all food banks to leverage the national focus on another iconic symbol of hunger, the empty plate, to represent what happens when stomachs are empty. We hope to inspire everyone to share their experiences on what they can’t do without a meal on their plates to illustrate how people can’t meet their full potential without proper nutrition. We’re also asking people to share what they CAN do to fight hunger locally and across the broader U.S. Maybe it’s a simple tweet, a conversation with your family or volunteering at our food bank or at a local food pantry. Visit us on Facebook and share your message with everyone to help us raise awareness of the impact of hunger in your community.

Our School Pantry Program installations continue to grow in several counties as we engage school superintendents, principals, teachers, churches, businesses and other neighborhood supporters to work together. This collaboration will focus on the important impact of parental engagement with the school staff as they receive the level of food assistance that covers the gap in parents’ resources. In the schools where we have this in operation, we are seeing parental engagement in the 30-40 percent range when it used to be in the single digit range prior to this program. We are getting positive impact survey comments from parents in the 75 percent to over 90 percent range describing increased positive behavior in their children and comfortability in coming to the school pantry, as well as reduced family stress created by food insecurity.

Some of the comments tell a deeper story of how this program is beneficial – “We get to eat tonight!”, “Financially, nutritionally, plus teaching our kids how important it is to help those in need,” and “It has helped with meals when we didn’t have any food in the house.” This has also provided a great opportunity for a church or business to partner alongside other organizations to make this happen with financial assistance and volunteers without being too big for one organization to support. We feel this program will continue to expand into all eight counties that we serve as we reach out for conversations to happen. If you have an interest in participating, please contact Sarah Rivera, Program Manager, at srivera@curehunger.org.

I had an old tie that was in my closet for a while. When I got it out, it still had the right colors to match a new suit, but the design of it left a lot to be desired. So it was time to make a change. We have completed the work of a website redesign. If you haven’t visited our website in a while check out the new design at www.curehunger.org. The old design had a low level of functionality along with a format that was pretty generic, but enough about that.

The new design was completed in WordPress and will have a variety of features that make it easier for everyone to find exactly what they’re searching for when they visit us online. We’re really excited about our site becoming mobile-friendly. It’s no secret that more and more internet browsing is being done with a mobile device or tablet. With our upgrades, you’ll be able to view all of our information in an easy-to-read format across multiple platforms including your cell phone.

Whether you’re visiting our site to find a phone number, make a donation, locate all the pantries nearby or sign up to be a volunteer, you’ll be able to easily access the information you need with just a couple of clicks. We’ve worked hard to map out the information in an intuitive manner so you aren’t spending a lot of time trying to locate information that is buried somewhere within a page that’s within a page. We’ve made it easy for you to get updates about what we’re doing! You’ll find a social media feed where you’ll see the latest updates from Second Harvest, and you can also sign up for our electronic newsletter right from our homepage. Signing up as a volunteer or registering for an event has never been easier. We’ve included simple forms to complete that will have you all squared away within a matter of minutes.

We are very excited about the opportunity to engage people with a website that represents today’s technology.

There is more to discuss as we move forward, but that’s another story. Have a great fall season.

Tim Kean
President & CEO
All of East Central Indiana's children are exploring, playing, learning, and growing; but many may not have enough of their daily nutritional value to excel to their full potential. Nearly 24,000 children are food insecure in East Central Indiana and without a balanced diet a child does not have a solid foundation to prepare for their future.

According to Feeding America, food insecurity can hinder their brain development, and play a huge role in a child's physical and emotional development. Second Harvest Food Bank's passion for children and their future has led to taking a strategic initiative to make sure children get the food they need for development. But this initiative doesn't stop with food.

Second Harvest is working on closing the gap of childhood hunger by offering opportunities to strengthen the relationships between the child, their family, and the school with the School Pantry program. Second Harvest currently has two School Pantry programs operating in the service area and will have four more established within this fall semester. The School Pantry creates a safe and convenient environment for its families and when coupled with school events or meetings is a catalysis for raising parental/guardian engagement. With this pantry model families are offered an opportunity to engage with their child's school while receiving enough food to supplement their family's food gap for a week. When one parent was asked how the School Pantry helped their family she responded, "Financially and nutritionally. Plus teaching [our children] how important it is to help those in need."

On average a food insecure individual in Second Harvest's service area will need about 5.83 more meals each week to meet their food needs. For a food insecure family of four that is over 23 total meals or 28 pounds of food missing from their household. Second Harvest strives to bring community members, businesses, groups and churches together to partner in sustaining these programs. With these community partners Second Harvest is able to lead the charge in ending childhood hunger in East Central Indiana.
“It’s all about beauty,” Laurie Lunsford said as she walked down the halls of Golden Living Center in Muncie, admiring the artwork hanging from the walls. Laurie is the Interactive Art Specialist at Golden Living Center and works with the 60 residents in the Alzheimer’s unit.

Laurie’s passion for art began at a young age. As a toddler, she painted on the walls. Her passion for art only grew, as she became an art teacher in Fremont, Anthony, Mitchell and West View schools. Now, her passion continues to grow as she works with the residents at Golden Living Center.

Golden Living Center recently held an artwork auction with artwork that had been created by the residents. Proceeds were donated to Second Harvest Food Bank. The idea came from a resident and well-known Second Harvest worker, DeWayne Davis.

DeWayne was the general maintenance man for two and a half years at Second Harvest. “I was only supposed to be at Second Harvest for six months but they just couldn’t get me to leave,” stated DeWayne. “The greatest years of my life were at Second Harvest. I’ll never forget it.”

Laurie established the idea for an Interactive Art Program in nursing homes after her father’s passing. After one long day in the nursing home with her father, Laurie decided she needed her own form of therapy art.

Laurie gathered her supplies from her car and began painting in the nursing home. Quickly, she began to realize that the residents had gathered around her, watching her and wanting to try.

The Interactive Art Program gives the residents the opportunity to be social and inspirational in all areas of their lives. Laurie said that art for the residents is beautiful, creative, colorful and also self-expressive and that it “brings something into nursing homes that is desperately needed.”

One resident, Teresa Kennedy, sold one of her favorite artworks “Cat in the Sac” for $50 during the auction. She said she could only sell it because she knew the money was going to a good cause.

Another resident, Sara Marcaletti, said she never painted until she came to Golden Living Center. Now, she paints everyday. Her favorite things to paint are flowers, scenery, nature and angels. Sara painted an angel for the auction. For Sara and many other residents, painting helps take her mind off of the physical pain. Sara repeated several times that Laurie was a great instructor and that is why she continues to paint.

Artwork done by the residents as well as Laurie’s blog postings are available at her website, handsthatcreate.com.
TeenWorks

TeenWorks is a six-week summer employment program for teens so they can build professional resumes and gain job skills while also giving back to their community. This is the second summer they have worked at Second Harvest and the program is divided into three separate sections: rookie, veteran and intern.

“My favorite thing I did while at Second Harvest was learning how to work the forklift,” teen Jeysin Sterling said. He hopes to save the money he had earned during his time at Second Harvest for his college fund.

Supervisor Rhonda Cunningham and Assistant Supervisor Tink Bennett spent their six-weeks supervising the teenagers while at Second Harvest. Both hope that after the program the teens will have gained work skills, employment skills, teamwork, a sense of direction and professional development.

Tink’s passion for the TeenWorks Program has only increased. Tink was in the TeenWorks Program when she was in high school and even received a scholarship from TeenWorks. She loves her position as assistant supervisor.

After the teens spent their first hours of each day at the Food Bank, they ate lunch and attended classes at Ivy Tech Community College. They were able to learn more about how they can grow in a professional setting by listening to guest speakers cover topics such as public speaking, finance and technology.

Upon the program’s completion, the teens were given the opportunity to join the TeenWorks 360 program where they have volunteer opportunities and the chance to gain more professional development throughout the school year.

Second Harvest was honored and proud to have TeenWorks return for a second summer. Thank you, TeenWorks, for all your hard work and dedication this summer!

DIRECTIONS TO SECOND HARVEST

A. Coming from Riggin Road in Muncie, go North on Old SR 3. Prepare to make a left turn between the guard rails before the overpass. Watch for the Second Harvest sign 1/2 mile north.

B. There is no entrance from US 35/67/3 although you will see our complex as you drive by. Exit toward BSU and take the first right. Look for our sign.

Take the road around to the site. The entrance is located in the back of the complex in Building #4.