“I really appreciate it!”

Dorica Watson sat in her car, marveling at what the little boy said before he and his mom got out to go inside. “He was only six years old ... and I’ll never forget it. He turned to me and said, ‘Thank you so much for this food. I really appreciate it!’” Dorica had never heard such a young child use a word that big. “And you could tell he was truly grateful. I later thanked his mom for raising a son who was so polite.”

Dorica coordinates Second Harvest Food Bank’s Circles Program. The effort was a key part of the former TEAMwork for Quality Living organization, which merged with Second Harvest last October. Dorica began working with the TQL team in 2008 before transitioning to Second Harvest in 2016.

Circles welcomes families into a 16-week close partnership that helps them go from “just surviving” to “thriving.” Circles families are working hard and are motivated to make ends meet all on their own; they’re just not there yet. The program’s “Circle Cafe” brings families together once a week to provide dinner and fellowship, resources, referrals, information, and other assistance to help them move from poverty to permanent stability.

Twice monthly, those families are invited to take a “building box,” approximately 30 pounds of a carefully chosen selection of groceries that can help them prepare healthy meals at home. Dorica had offered to give the little boy and his mom a ride home with their building box that night. “When I offered to help them inside, this little guy said ‘that’s ok.’ He wanted to help his mom carry the things inside. He was so smart and so grown up!”

Dorica sees the long-term benefit that food offers families in need. “We truly are helping empower families to move them toward self-sufficiency ... working to prevent poverty by supporting parents in ways that enable them to make long-term changes, to learn new things and maybe unlearn some old things. Offering the food is something they are truly, truly grateful for and they tell us all the time what a difference it makes in helping them stay ahead.”

Gifts from Second Harvest Food Bank donors are enabling 40 families currently enrolled in the Circles Program to benefit by the nutritious “building boxes.”

“WE Truly are helping empower families to move them toward self-sufficiency ...”

— Dorica Watson

INSIDE

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“The Darn Thing Just Won’t Start!”

Have those words ever come out of your mouth? Car trouble can be so frustrating. Maybe you’ve bought a used car that was full of surprises. It seems OK, but you just get the feeling something bad is going to happen at a most inconvenient time. (I work out of town, so getting stuck involves a lot more than calling a friend or family member to come and rescue me.)

For a single mom needing to make sure her kids get to school and she arrives at work on time, getting stuck at the wrong time or in the wrong place can be more than inconvenient. It can put lives in jeopardy. Sometimes people lose their jobs because they clock in late once too often.

I remember growing up as one of five kids, the oldest of whom had significant physical and mental disabilities. Dad worked two or three jobs; Mom was captain of the ship. What a blessing it must have been to see us get on the school bus, confident we’d arrive safely at school.

Today, tens of thousands of neighbors across East Central Indiana have no car, or only an unreliable one. And one in every six people don’t have enough food to eat.

Because of you, Second Harvest is working harder than ever to “shorten the line.” Going beyond just food, we are helping people get whatever they need to get their lives running smoothly again.

For many, the dream of a self-sustaining life – free from the need for social service programs and government assistance – may seem out of reach. But with your continuing help, Second Harvest is empowering more people with the skills and opportunities they need to solve their problems. Thank you for helping rescue more neighbors by helping us get them started again and back on the road to success.

Tim Kean
President & CEO

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT:

Tears of Joy in Daleville ... thanks to you

Dana Pierce scans the Second Harvest Food Bank online order form.

“I always start with the fresh produce, and try to build that month’s meals starting there.”

Dana is ordering food to coordinate Second Harvest’s Senior Safety Net program for the town of Daleville in Delaware County. Once a month, elderly neighbors are welcomed to the Town Hall on South Walnut to receive a box of nutritious fresh foods and meal basics to help them make ends meet. Thanks to a partnership with LifeStream Services, the Daleville distribution opened in the fall of 2016 and currently serves around 40 folks age 60+ each month.

“I remember one man who came when we first opened,” Dana recalls. “He and his wife are both retired, and they took in extended family members who’d lost their jobs. On a fixed income, it just wasn’t enough to make ends meet. He was in tears; he was so grateful. He thanks us every time he comes in.”

Food insecure senior citizens are at increased risk for chronic health conditions, including asthma, depression, and heart attack.

As more generous neighbors join our donor family, Second Harvest Food Bank remains committed to meeting the needs of hungry seniors across our 8-county service region.

Seniors living in East Central Indiana in need of assistance may call LifeStream Services (1-800-589-1121). LifeStream is a Second Harvest partner agency offering a variety of programs to keep elderly neighbors independent and thriving.
PANTRY SPOTLIGHT:

Your Giving Reaches Small Towns Far and Wide

Twenty miles northeast of Muncie, the little town of Redkey sits on less than a square mile of land. About 360 families live there.

“Everybody knows everybody here,” says Beth Burris, who organizes the weekly food pantry at the United Methodist Church.

For close to ten years, generous donors to Second Harvest Food Bank have enabled Beth to drive to Muncie and pick up pallets of food to bring back to the church pantry. Redkey is one of many small townships, villages, and far-flung places across eight counties where your generosity is making a difference. In fact, in 2016 more than seven million pounds of food reached thousands of children and adults throughout east central Indiana.

“People really rely on little pantries like ours,” Beth says. “I’d say this one serves about one third of Redkey’s families each year. Not all come every month because they don’t want to take from us unless they absolutely need it.”

Beth hears neighbors’ gratitude firsthand. They tell her how hard it would be without the pantry.

“The church basement flooded one time, and we couldn’t open. One lady later told me, ‘I just prayed and prayed every day that this would get cleaned up so you could reopen!’ She was so kind, and so thankful.”

Beth even makes special “house calls” weekly to deliver food to three disabled seniors who are unable to travel to the pantry.

In addition to Second Harvest donors, numerous organizations and generous individuals donate time and money to keep the Redkey pantry open.

In addition to Second Harvest donors, numerous organizations and generous individuals donate time and money to keep the Redkey pantry open. “We have such wonderful people who donate food or money, hold fundraisers, and volunteer to help me load and unload my car,” she says.

Of the several food pantries in Jay County, Redkey may be the smallest. But for the hungry townsfolk who would otherwise be going without, it fills a critical need. The same is true in dozens of towns spanning every county served by Second Harvest. We’re there for them because you’re here for them.
**Food Pantry, Food Bank: What’s the Difference?**

Food pantries are places where families in need go to receive food. They are often small, “homemade” locations set up in a church, community agency, or school. A food bank is a large distribution center that supplies food to “stock the shelves” of the food pantry.

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana serves over 110 pantries and other meal sites across eight counties. In addition to acquiring and delivering food, Second Harvest promotes larger solutions to ending hunger and poverty in our region.

For every dollar you send to the Food Bank, up to four meals can be served to a neighbor in need!

**Here’s an easy way to think about the difference between a Food Pantry and a Food Bank. Pantry is where people pick up. Bank is bigger, broader.**

Now you know!  □

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for more news and stories about how you are providing help for today and hope for tomorrow for more hungry Hoosiers!

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**Here’s my gift to help hungry neighbors this spring!**

□ $35  □ $50  □ $100  □ $250  □ $500  □ $ __________

Name

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□ Enclosed is my check made payable to Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana.

□ Please charge my □ monthly □ one-time gift of $___________ to my □ Visa □ MC □ Discover □ AMEX

Card No. __________________________

Exp. Date ________________  Sec. Code __________

Signature _______________________

□ I have included Second Harvest Food Bank in my will or estate plan.

□ I would like more information about including Second Harvest Food Bank in my will or estate plan.

Call (765) 287-8698 to charge your gift by phone. Visit www.curehunger.org to give online.