



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Jewish Family Services honored with Harvesters' Circle of Hope Award**

Jewish Family Services will receive the 2018 Agency of the Year Award from Harvesters -The Community Food Network, for its efforts to alleviate hunger in Greater Kansas City. JFS will receive the honor at Harvesters Circle of Hope Luncheon on Thursday, Sept. 22, at the Downton Marriot hotel.

The Agency of the Year Award recognizes one of Harvester's affiliates for exceptional effort to end hunger and reach new levels of service. In addition, the agency must have demonstrated activity as a Harvesters network partner, as an outstanding client service provider and as an agency able to attract community support.

JFS is a Harvesters affiliate, purchasing food at low-cost for its two pantry locations – the Jewish Community Campus in Kansas and Brookside East in Kansas City, Missouri. Each month, the JFS Food Pantry distributes 22,000 pounds of food to help feed nearly 390 families facing food insecurity. In addition, JFS Food Pantry Director Jo Hickey is a member of Harvesters Agency Advisory Council that provides practical input on operational aspects of Harvesters. The Council is comprised of a diverse mix of agencies, with various program models from across Harvesters' 26-county region.

The Circle of Hope awards spotlight exemplary contributions of corporations, agencies, groups and individuals in support of Harvesters and the 141,500 people the food bank serves each month. The Circle of Hope refers to the common interest between Harvesters and its agencies, volunteers and donors in alleviating hunger.

"We are so pleased to award Jewish Family Services the 2018 Circle of Hope Agency of the Year award," said Valerie Nicholson-Watson, president and CEO of Harvesters—The Community Food Network about the JFS honor.

"JFS has been a partner agency with Harvesters since 2012, providing food through its pantry as well as other essential services to community members. Their mission of helping others in need, regardless of race or religion, closely mirrors Harvesters' mission. We are proud of and thankful for the partnership," she said.

Through its two locations, the JFS Food Pantry provides sustenance to people in need, regardless of religious affiliation. The Food Pantry provides non-perishable staples as well as grains, dairy, protein, and fresh fruits and vegetables. Both VAAD-supervised kosher and non-kosher food options are available, as are personal care and household items. JFS also has a Little Free Pantry outside of its Brookside location. The Little Free Pantry is stocked with donations of non-perishable food items that others can take as needed.

For more information about donating or volunteering at either JFS pantry location, please contact Jo Hickey at [jhickey@jfskc.org](mailto:jhickey@jfskc.org), call (913) 327-8257 or visit [www.jfskc.org](http://www.jfskc.org).

CUTLINE: None of the achievements of Jewish Family Services' Food Pantry would be possible without the support of dedicated pantry volunteers like these as well as food donors/food drive hosts, and our financial supporters.

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