If you’re anything like me, I’m usually late in getting a yearly physical exam with my family doctor, but I do highly recommend it. It can help reveal changes that need attention or a recommitment to what was discussed during the last visit. Progress in some areas can also be celebrated and a challenge to accomplish for even more improvement can lead to not only a better quality of life, but increased longevity. I am due for one personally and we are due for one organizationally.

At Second Harvest Food Bank, we are updating our Strategic Plan for 2015 to 2018. We are re-examining our mission statement, vision statement and our stated values. The board, staff and communities we serve are being asked to weigh in as well. A look at our history, our current picture and vision for the future will help guide the discussion. We will also look at what others in the world of food banks are doing to help us with our visioning. We must take into account our internal strengths and weaknesses along with the outside threats and challenges to get as much of a 360-degree view as we can. The end result will be a clear set of goals set by the board with objectives and tactics developed by the staff to move our organization forward. This is all to help us with the approach to address food insecurity for nearly 74,000 people in the eight counties we serve.

The analysis and development process will be completed by the end of May and the rest of 2015 will be focused on our early rollout of any new initiatives and/or course corrections for the programs that will continue. That also means that we will have an exit strategy for anything that will be phased out. Significant changes take time and usually have several tentacles that reach several parts of the organization. So don’t expect to see a rapid, knee-jerk approach that causes the crew to become seasick or for those traveling alongside to have huge waves created that will rock their ship in the process. We will lay out our thoughts and plans with all our community partners to keep them in the loop and ask for their support as we go forward together to wrestle food insecurity into submission.

Have a great spring. Help another person.
Serving the south side Muncie community, the Muncie Christian Center was established six years ago by Daniel and Electa Fraga who wanted to start a food pantry for people in need.

They were concerned that people may work 40 hours a week yet still don't have enough money to put food on the table. Daniel and Electa were in a similar situation; they didn't have enough income to buy staples. Now they are in a better financial situation and they donate to the food pantry along with Second Harvest's help.

In the beginning, the food pantry served about 30 people and now, on average, serve more than 100 individuals each month. Most of their clientele consists of senior citizens who come on a regular basis. Occasionally they see new people who come once and then don't return for four or five months. “We tend to see more people during the summer months than winter months,” said Daniel.

The pantry has six to eight volunteers on distribution day. They have four people help the day before to make sure everything is organized. Volunteers stock a variety of items; however, their most popular foods are meats and bread because they are a necessity.

They serve their clients on the second Friday of every month from 4 to 6 p.m.
Angie Streit

Second Harvest has some of the most dedicated volunteers and one of them is Angie Streit. She has been a volunteer at Second Harvest for more than a year, dedicating every Monday morning to helping those in need.

She became involved with Second Harvest by volunteering at the Harvest Soup Kitchen on Charles Street in Muncie. “I had the time so that’s why I wanted to volunteer at Second Harvest. I like the fact that there is an organization doing a great deal of good, knowing that people in need are getting helped.” She also knew some people who volunteered at Second Harvest as well and she saw it as a good opportunity to help people and have time to visit with friends. Also, Angie said, “The staff members at Second Harvest are so helpful and welcoming.”

Angie and her husband have always considered volunteering as part of their lives. They started with Habitat for Humanity when they lived in Mississippi. They have been involved with 48 chapters within the United States. Their goal was to make it to all 50 states.

They like to keep themselves busy and give back whenever they can. Originally from Western New York, Angie and her husband have made their home in Muncie to be closer to family.

Grace United Methodist Church Food Pantry

Grace United Methodist Church has made a huge impact in the Hartford City community for more than 30 years by helping provide food to those in need.

The food pantry was originally started by Jackie Ridgeway who wanted to help church members who were food insecure. After Jackie passed away, Kristie Jennerjahn, a church member, took over and has been operating the food pantry for about 10 years. She became involved by always being the “community needs person” within the church congregation and she wanted to help out more.

Second Harvest has been affiliated with Grace United Methodist Church for a year and a half. They have also moved out of the church into a building behind the church for more space. Before Second Harvest, they were relying solely on donations to fill their food pantry, and they have a total of 28 church volunteers. Their clientele ranges from elderly people to younger families within the Hartford City community. They serve on average 15 to 20 families a week, according to Kristie.

They stock a variety of foods to make sure they meet people’s needs, however per client request, spaghetti, spaghetti sauce, macaroni & cheese and fruit are the most popular. According to Kristie, they are trying to help educate clients on nutrition by providing them with recipes that include produce so that fresh fruit and vegetables will be more desirable items.

Their biggest impact is during the Christmas season when the food pantry helps provide food for Christmas dinners. Additional Christmas items are also distributed at this time. Kristie said, “Christmas time is probably the most memorable because we get to see happiness on people’s faces.”
2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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YOU CAN LEAVE A LEGACY TO HELP ALLEVIATE HUNGER

Have you thought about naming Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana as a beneficiary in your estate? Three of the easiest ways are listed below: wills and living trusts, life insurance and retirement plans. Certainly there are other kinds of planned gifts and those will be explained in future newsletters. There is no better way to be remembered and no better gift to leave behind. Your legacy in this regard is easy to create and can cost nothing to establish. In fact, doing so may save your estate a great deal in taxes.

Wills & Living Trusts

Including Second Harvest Food Bank in your will or living trust.

This is one of the easiest ways to make an important difference in the lives of those who suffer from hunger. It’s generally as simple as adding a brief statement to your estate documents. While this type of gift creates no immediate tax benefits, it will be completely tax deductible for estate planning purposes. The gift is revocable, so you can change your mind at any time should your circumstances change.

* Allows you to specify exactly how you would want to distribute your assets. You can make a specific bequest by identifying a specific parcel of real estate, stock or other clearly defined item.

* You can make a cash bequest of a specific percentage of your estate after all other bequests and settlement costs are satisfied.

Life Insurance

Name Second Harvest Food Bank as owner and beneficiary of an existing insurance policy.

A life insurance policy may provide a way for you to make a much larger contribution to alleviate hunger than you ever thought possible. As your life evolves, so may your need for life insurance. You may now be in a position to:

* Name Second Harvest Food Bank as the recipient of all or part of the proceeds of a life insurance policy that is no longer needed for family protection.

* Contribute a paid-up policy during your lifetime, resulting in a charitable deduction for an amount approximately equal to your policy’s cash surrender value.

Retirement Plans

Name Second Harvest Food Bank a beneficiary on any of your retirement plan accounts.

Many of you have save diligently for retirement through various tax-deferred retirement plans. Though each have their own rules, they all share one very unattractive feature. They are subject to both estate and income taxation at death. This could mean that a vast majority of your retirement plan assets could be paid to the government in the form of taxes. By leaving Second Harvest as a beneficiary of all, or a percentage of, your retirement plan assets you know your assets will be used to feed food insecure individuals in your county.

For more information, please contact Karen McTague, Director of Development, at kmctague@curehunger.org or 765-287-8698 Ext. 113.

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.