I am happy to tell you that this staff has done a wonderful job of getting food to people who are struggling to feed their families. 2015 has been full of challenges with donated food supplies dropping to levels that we saw in 2012. Food manufacturers, distributors and retailers have become more efficient which is good for them, but reduces the amount of food that they have available to donate to us. This staff has followed every angle to seek and distribute the food we have to more than 110 different programs in our 8-county service area.

Even as we stay engaged in this effort, we realize that we have a need to re-examine what our programs are able to provide. Over the last several months, we have worked through a refresh of our Strategic Plan. We will present our strategies and tactics to our board late in January that will address the goals that the board has set for us. We will move into new relationships with others who are engaged in providing programs and services to raise the level of collaboration.

Ask yourself what you would do with $10,000 to assist struggling people and with whom might you want to partner to make something great happen? If you had only one dollar, how would you divide it to address the food insecure population by age group? Using the same resources on the same programs and getting basically the same results, would you plan another year just like last year? Is this the best we can do? If you have good aim, shooting from a distance at the bullseye with a rifle has a better chance of success than shooting at a large target with a shotgun. Another way of saying it would be moving from the general to the specific because it seems to be a better path if you plan to get there anytime soon. Specifics will begin to roll out early in the new year.

Thank you for all you do to make something good happen for someone else.

Tim Kean
President & CEO
According to Feeding America, one in every ten hungry adults is a college student. “For college students, this is the first time they might have to ask for help,” according to Derek Hugo, executive director at Cardinal Kitchen in Delaware County.

Cardinal Kitchen has recently become an agency with Second Harvest Food Bank and serves between 40-70 students monthly. Each student receives around 12 items per visit. While the pantry is open to students and graduate students, they never turn away someone in need.

When those in need come to the pantry, they fill out a sheet for items they need. Then volunteers use the sheet to fill a bag and then give it to the individual.

Seeing the reactions from those in need is one of the most rewarding things for Derek.

Cardinal Kitchen is all being volunteer-based. Without the help of volunteers, Cardinal Kitchen would not be possible. There are about eight volunteers every week.

Cardinal Kitchen is open from 5-8 p.m., the last three Tuesdays of the month in the Multicultural Center on Ball State University’s campus. Students can receive assistance every time they are open.

For more information about the food pantry or volunteering, please contact Derek Hugo at bsucardinalkitchen@gmail.com.

Turning Point

What would you do with $500? Second Harvest can feed 2,000 people with $500. Thanks to a grant from the United Way, Second Harvest is able to sponsor Turning Point Church of Henry County’s Little Blessings program.

Little Blessings is an after school program that sends children home with a bag of food for the weekend every Friday. The program was started four years ago after Terry Pyle wanted to help hungry kids in her community. So she reached out to local Henry County schools. What started with five kids has now become a program that feeds more than 1,100 children in Henry County.

Kimberly Detar has been working at Turning Point for the past six years and hopes to see more programs develop in addition to Little Blessings.

“It starts with education,” Kimberly said. “We’re dealing with children that come from third and fourth generations of substance abuse. We are working on programs that help those children. Kids are the heartbeat of our community because they can’t control their parents.”

Turning Point does not have a food pantry at this time, but they hope to in the near future.

Contact Kimberly Detar of Turning Point at 765-599-3000 or Samantha Martin of Second Harvest at 765-287-8698 for more information.
Navient

Navient is a local Muncie business who has developed into a strong and crucial partner with Second Harvest Food Bank. Employees from Navient have volunteered their time at tailgates and through the United Way events for many years. This year, following the United Way Day of Caring, Audrey Clevenger approached Second Harvest about her interest in the Food 4 Kids Program.

The Food 4 Kids program provides bags of food for children in need over the weekends during the academic school year. Each bag contains eight items: two juices, two cereals, two snacks and two protein items. All of the food is “child friendly” in that they are easy to open and consume without a parent. In order for this program to be successful, a high level of accuracy in packing must be completed for more than 950 bags each month.

After Audrey had volunteered on her own for this program, she knew there was a role that Navient could play in helping make this program successful. Through her leadership, she was able to organize a monthly packing session of the Food 4 Kids bags by Navient employees.

“Knowing that hundreds of children are going to be opening bags packed with food that I prepared is a wonderful feeling,” Rob Edgeman said as he described his experience with the monthly packing distribution. Another enthusiastic and dedicated volunteer said, “Stopping hunger is something to strive for and even just one child less hungry is reason enough for me to be here.”

Thank you Navient for your partnership!

Dorothy Jackson

After retirement, many individuals start looking for something to keep themselves busy; this was no different for Dorothy Jackson. One year after retirement, Dorothy decided it was time to do something during the day, and with the recommendation from her minister, she found her way to Second Harvest Food Bank.

“Giving back and the cause is the reason I really like it,” Dorothy said. These were just a few of the reasons why she volunteers at Second Harvest.

Dorothy Jackson has been volunteering at Second Harvest since July 2015. She works from 8 a.m. until noon, three days a week. Daily duties range from cleaning, boxing food to filing paperwork.

She loves that she can make her own schedule.

Dorothy will never forget the day she cleaned every single plate of the mural in the community room. It was not the most glorious job, but she said, “You don’t have to do it, but if you volunteer you should be willing to do anything.”

Some of her favorite memories have to do with the other volunteers that walk through Second Harvest’s doors. She looks forward to getting together with volunteers on Wednesdays for snacks.

For any person that does not know if they want to volunteer, Dorothy encourages others because “it gets you up and out. You ought to try it. You might like it.”
IN THE MIDST OF FOOD INSECURITY

Have you ever wondered how your time, voice or dollar makes a difference? For those experiencing food insecurity, the difference is getting to eat rather than going hungry.

“I have worked all my life in every job available to raise a large family and, without the help from food pantries, there would be weeks I would be unable to eat or make it at all after I paid my bills! Please continue to help.”

“I have three kids and my husband works. If we received cuts on food stamps and lunches, my kids would go without something else. We already can’t afford to have vehicles or enough clothes for my children. Having the tailgate helps me and other families cut a lot.”

“I have three kids and my husband works. If we received cuts on food stamps and lunches, my kids would go without something else. We already can’t afford to have vehicles or enough clothes for my children. Having the tailgate helps me and other families cut a lot.”

“Have you ever wondered how your time, voice or dollar makes a difference? For those experiencing food insecurity, the difference is getting to eat rather than going hungry.”

“WE HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN FOOD OR MEDICINE. THIS FOOD HELPS SO WE CAN HAVE BOTH MOST OF THE TIME.”

“I have worked all my life in every job available to raise a large family and, without the help from food pantries, there would be weeks I would be unable to eat or make it at all after I paid my bills! Please continue to help.”

“IT’S VERY HARD FOR PEOPLE ON FIXED INCOME. THERE IS NOT ENOUGH TO BUY FOOD AND PAY BILLS. I COME TO TAILGATES BECAUSE IT HELPS US TO FEED OUR FAMILY. IT IS HARD FOR PEOPLE TO BE HUNGRY, ESPECIALLY THE ELDERLY THAT CAN’T WORK.”

“This helps us eat. We eat once a day now. We can’t get food stamps, we apparently make one dollar too much. There are four people in our family.”

These are real stories from hungry men, women and children right here in East Central Indiana. By volunteering your time, engaging in proactive conversations, or giving of financial resources, you can make a difference in their lives today and offer hope for a brighter tomorrow.

Visit www.curehunger.org or call us at 765-287-8698 to start making a difference.

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.

6621 N. Old SR3
Muncie, IN 47303-9501
765-287-8698
www.curehunger.org

Go Green  Please call or e-mail if you’d like us to communicate with you via e-mail and save on printing and mailing costs. Contact 765-287-8698.