



Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest Pennsylvania

HOW DOES IT WORK?

What is the Second Harvest Food Bank?

The Second Harvest Food Bank is the largest nonprofit food distribution organization in northwest Pennsylvania. Second Harvest solicits, receives, inventories, stores and distributes food and grocery products to 254 member agencies that directly serve people facing hard times in 11 counties. The counties served include Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Forest, Jefferson, McKean, Venango and Warren.

Where does Second Harvest get food?

Nutritious but unsalable food is donated to Second Harvest from all levels of the food industry – retailers, distributors, wholesalers, manufacturers, growers – as well as from food drives. The food is nutritious and usable, but due to over-production, errors in packaging, a short code date or other reasons, it cannot be sold. Second Harvest obtains donated food from national manufacturers through the food bank network we belong to, Feeding America. This is the country's leading domestic hunger-relief organization. Second Harvest also serves as the lead agency for storing and distributing government food in three counties – Erie, Forest and Clarion. Provided through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), this food is distributed at no cost to member food pantries.

What types of agencies does Second Harvest help?

Second Harvest distributes food to member agencies, which include food pantries, soup kitchens, Kids Cafes and shelters as well as such non-emergency agencies as child care centers, drug and alcohol rehabilitation centers and senior centers. The people served by member agencies include unemployed and underemployed workers, the homeless, older citizens, those with disabilities, families in crisis situations and children. The agencies pay Second Harvest a low handling fee to cover such expenses as trucking, utilities, insurance, supplies and personnel.

How does \$1 = \$17?

Each dollar spent by Second Harvest can obtain approximately 6 pounds of food with a retail value of \$2.91 per pound. In other words, \$1 spent = \$17 in retail value.

OTHER FACTS

- During 2008, Second Harvest distributed more than 7 million pounds of food to feed 52,000 unduplicated recipients.
- Funding for Second Harvest's operational expenses comes mainly from donations and handling fees.
- Second Harvest is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Donations to Second Harvest are eligible for tax deductions. Second Harvest's official registration and financial information may be obtained by calling the PA Dept. of State toll-free, within PA, at 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.
- Of all donations (food, cash and in-kind) Second Harvest received during the 2007-08 fiscal year, 97 percent were devoted to programs rather than administration or fundraising efforts.