

Kristopher Tazelaar

From: Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin <krist@shfbmadison.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 15, 2020 2:41 PM
To: Kristopher Tazelaar
Subject: Second Harvest Coronavirus Response

Second Harvest's Coronavirus Response



Dear Kris,

Recently our President & CEO, Michelle Orge, was interviewed about our response to the Coronavirus outbreak, and her response was, "This is what we're built for!" With that in mind, we thought we'd share how we are responding so far.

The Coronavirus seems to be on everyone's mind. Whether you are at the grocery store, gas station, or in the hallways at your workplace, the latest event cancellation or COVID-19 related news story is the hot topic of conversation.

For most, stocking the pantry is just a matter of waiting in a long line at the nearest grocery store or warehouse shopping retailer. **Unfortunately for those facing hunger, who are living paycheck to paycheck, the idea of stocking up to be home for an extended period of time is simply not possible.** That's why everyone at Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin and our partner agencies is focused on making sure those most vulnerable continue to have access to the resources they need to maintain a healthy lifestyle.

We wanted to take a few moments to share what we're doing during this national emergency:

For Program Participants

- We are working with our food sources – both through donations and purchases of food – to make sure we can meet any increased demand caused by this outbreak

- We are working with our partner agencies to implement ways participants can get the food they need by extending hours of operation, increasing the amount of food participants can receive at one time, or increasing the number of times a participant can get food in a given time period
- We are temporarily changing how we distribute food through our mobile pantries in an effort to limit crowd sizes and the length of time people have to wait in line
- We are distributing [educational materials](#) developed by the [CDC](#) that are designed to encourage healthy practices and limit the spread of the virus

For our Volunteers

- We have temporarily canceled group volunteer shifts in an effort to reduce the number of people coming in to our facility
- We are encouraging our incredibly loyal senior volunteers to stay home rather than risk exposure to the virus

For Our Partner Agencies

- We have been in regular communication with our partner agencies to share best practices and resources from across the [Feeding America](#) network (Second Harvest is a member of Feeding America, the nations largest domestic hunger-relief organization)
- We have developed a [section](#) of our website that will be a centralized source of COVID-19 related information from sources like the CDC, Feeding America, and Second Harvest

For Our Staff

- We are asking staff who can work remotely to do so
- We are implementing technological solutions like video chat software and emergency texting services to stay in regular contact with all staff

For Our Supporters

- We remain committed to our mission to eliminate hunger in our 16-county service area
- We are maintaining business as usual, but we have contingencies in place
- We are closely monitoring the situation
- The safety and wellbeing of our participants, partners, volunteers, and staff are our top priority

How You Can Help

- While we are cancelling large group volunteer opportunities for now, we will be opening more individual volunteer opportunities soon. Keep an eye on the [Give Time](#) section of our website for updated individual volunteer availability.
- Between purchasing more food, adding more deliveries, and having paid staff do the activities volunteers would normally do, our expenses are going to go up significantly. If you would like to make a [financial donation](#) to help offset these increased costs, click the button below.



If you have any questions about our response to the COVID-19 outbreak, please visit SecondHarvestMadison.org/Coronavirus, or contact [Kris Tazelaar](#) (Director of Marketing & Communications) or [Michelle Orge](#) (President & CEO).

Thank you for your support of Second Harvest and those who will struggle as a result of the Coronavirus outbreak!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle".

Michelle Orge
President & CEO



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