IMPACT: HELPING THE CAREGIVER

Joann spent her whole professional career caring for others. First as a Certified Nursing Assistant, then as an in-home hospice care provider, and finally as a cook at a nursing home. Ten years ago she was forced to retire due to diabetes-related health complications. According to Joann, “One day I was working, the next day I wasn’t.” But even in retirement caring for others is still in her blood.

When Joann’s grandson was three, she took him in to her home to raise him. 15 years later he’s ready to graduate high school and move on to the next stage in life. While she’s proud of her grandson, she ponders what life will be like when he’s gone, “I’m going to be all by myself,” she laments.

Raising her grandson was difficult after she was forced to retire. While the jobs she held during her career provided the satisfaction of helping others, they didn’t provide much of a nest egg to count on in retirement. In fact, ever since she retired her only source of income is her social security/disability.

“I never thought I’d be in this position. I always thought I’d be doing good. It just didn’t work out that way.”

To help make ends meet, Joann counts on the school food pantry located in the Sparta Meadowview Middle School.

“You wouldn’t believe how much this helps. This little bit, and sometimes a lot that we get out here really helps go through the month for food. It’s a real blessing to have this. I don’t know what I would do without it.”

Before the school pantry opened Joann would simply go without to make sure her grandson had enough food.

“I always made sure my grandson had food. If I didn’t, I didn’t. He would always wonder why grandma was not eating like he’s eating. I would say that I had stuff before. You just talk your way around it. It makes me feel good because I can make decent meals for my grandson.”

Thanks to our donors, Second Harvest Foodbank is supporting three school pantries currently, with another five planned to open by the end of the year. Additionally, Second Harvest is working with several organizations in the Madison area to support school pantries in a number of schools in the Madison school district.

To those donors who support the school pantry initiative, Joann would say, “I would thank them for all they do. I appreciate all they do.”

Since its beginning, we’ve distributed nearly 450,000 pounds of food through the School Pantry Program!
Interestingly, one known way to set a child up for success is to provide them enough healthy nutritious food to eat. National studies show the importance of a nutritious diet and the devastating effect of food insecurity on educational outcomes and their health. These studies show students that come to school hungry don’t perform as well, are absent more often and have higher dropout rates. They also show elevated levels of obesity, kidney problems, anemia, high blood pressure, behavioral problems and diabetes.

For more than 44,000 children in the 16 counties we serve, having enough nutritious food to eat is a challenge. Knowing that 1 in every 6 children struggle, we have embarked on programs designed to meet the needs of children. These include assistance on weekends with backpack programs, providing after school assistance via Kids Café programs, and school food pantries.

Second Harvest created 3 school food pantry programs several years ago in Beloit, Adams and Sparta. These were placed in areas with high need in hopes that providing convenience would assist in preventing some of the problems highlighted above. They were aimed at not only assisting students but drawing higher risk families out of the woodwork. Based on the initial success of the School Pantry Program, we are in the process of adding five new school pantries in some of the more rural areas of our service territory. In addition, we are working with 8 more newly formed school pantries in the Madison Metropolitan School District.

Many studies show a link between food quality and improved student achievement. Other studies have shown that schools that serve calorie-rich food on test days see students performing better on those tests.

So what can 1 more meal provide? It can result in higher test scores. It can help combat preventable health issues and it can help kids be more attentive in class and retain more information. So thank you for helping us provide nutritious meals to children. The impact is we all win.

Thank you to the Alliant Energy Foundation and Drive Out Hunger sponsors for raising $500,000 to benefit seven Feeding America Food Banks serving Iowa and Wisconsin.

Cummins, Inc. recently invested in a back-up power generator designed to enable Second Harvest to fulfill their mission and expand support to feed the community in the event of a power outage and crisis.

The John Deere Foundation is committed to ending childhood hunger in Dane County through a three year $75,000 gift to provide healthy meals and ensure young children and teens have the proper nutrition and food to properly develop and perform well in school.

Many thanks

FROM THE PRESIDENT’S DESK

JUST ONE MORE MEAL

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Business Hours:
Mon.–Fri. 8 a.m.–4 p.m.

Foodbank Tours:
Kris Tazelaar • 608-216-7206
KrisT@shfbmadison.org

Don’t want to get the newsletter?
Katie Ishmael • 608-216-7220
KatieI@shfbmadison.org
NBC15 Chief Meteorologist Charlie Shortino and Anchors Meghan Reistad, Leigh Mills, Hannah Flood, John Stofflet, Amy Pflugshaupt, Tim Elliott and Hannah Anderson invite you to donate just **ONE MORE MEAL** than you did last year.

Before his passing, NBC15 News Anchor and Share Your Holidays co-Founder Mike McKinney would always respond to the question of what was that years campaign goal with “just one more meal.” So that’s our goal this year... **One More Meal!**

A meal is so much more than “a meal” to those struggling with hunger. A meal is comfort on a trying day. A meal is the return of innocence to a child’s face. A meal is hope for a better tomorrow.

Here are some ways you can help:

**Check Out Hunger** *(October 31 - December 31)*
Make a donation at many area grocery stores.

**Request-A-Thon** *(November 8, 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.)*
Tune in to 105.5 Triple M and request your favorite song to be played for a donation. Call 844-8HUNGER to participate.

**Social Media Blitz** *(November 15)*
Download and print our Social Media Blitz sign (SecondHarvestMadison.org/BlitzSign), take a picture holding it, and post it to our Facebook page using #SYH23. For every picture posted Naviant, Inc. will donate 15 meals (up to 1,000 pictures).

**NBC15 Share Your Holidays Grand Finale** *(December 5, 6 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.)*
Gifts made will be **doubled ALL DAY** and **TRIPLED** during Mike’s Miracle Minutes on NBC15. To make a gift you can go online at SecondHarvestMadison.org/Donate or call 844-8HUNGER.

We are grateful to you and the following generous sponsors who make the NBC15 Share Your Holidays campaign possible:

**Diamond**
- Alliant Energy Foundation
- UW Health
- Landmark Services Cooperative
- Two Men and A Truck

**Platinum**
- Alliant Energy Center
- Little Potato Company

**Gold**
- NGL
- Dean HealthPlan

**Silver**
- M3 Insurance
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**Bronze**

**Participating**
- American Transmission Co., BDO, BMO Harris Bank, Capitol Bank, CDW, Chase, Brieman of CBRE, Clack Corporation, Compeer Financial, Findorff, Glanbia Nutritionals, Great Dane Pub & Brewing Company, OfficeSupply.com, Summit Credit Union, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan, Wells Fargo

**Online**
- Humana

**Grand Finale Box**
- Chase

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- Clasen Quality Chocolate

**Grand Finale Sort-a-thon**
- Naviant, Inc.

**Social Media Blitz**
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**Virtual Food Drive**
- The QTI Group

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- Alliant Energy Foundation
- AEI Affiliated Engineers
SCHOOL PANTRIES FEED MORE THAN JUST THE MIND

For parents of school-aged children, schools are the center of your world. They are where your child learns how to read, write, socialize, and form the foundations of who they will be the rest of their lives. They are also the places where the effects of food insecurity can cause challenges that can last a lifetime.

Recently schools have become a focus for Second Harvest’s efforts to meet the needs of the 1 in 6 kids under 18 who struggle with hunger. In 2014 we opened our first food pantry located inside a school. Since then we’ve opened two more, and five additional school pantries will open by the end of 2018.

To understand the importance of having a food pantry in schools, we recently spoke with Pastor Jef Skinner of the Gospel Baptist Church in Sparta. The church and staff from the Sparta Area School District have worked closely together to provide this much-needed service to the community since 2015.

According to Pastor Skinner, “Schools are a natural gathering place. We’ve got folks here who need the help, so it just makes sense to come here and have it in the school. We’re able to do our part here in the school and reach children and families that probably we would not reach otherwise.”

As for their partnership with the school district, Skinner adds, “It’s been seamless for us and for them. We’ve all cooperated well together. We’re all a team, we’re all a family. We’ve accomplished what we set out to accomplish and we’ve done it well.”

We’re grateful for the organizers and volunteers of all the school pantries we work with. If you’d like to support our school pantries, visit SecondHarvestMadison.org/Donate.

Thank you to ATC, Morgan Stanley Foundation, and Stateline Community Foundation for their support of the School Pantry Program.

TOOLS FOR FUTURE CHARITABLE GIFTS

New tax laws are giving rise to creative ways to support charitable organizations you care about like Second Harvest. As the year winds down, here are a couple of attractive options available to consider while planning your contributions in the new tax environment.

Use or establish a Donor Advised Fund

Consider a large contribution in one tax year to establish or add to a donor advised fund. A larger gift may add to your itemized deductions that year. In subsequent years, when your deductible expenses are not large enough to itemize on your taxes, you can ask the donor advised fund administrator to make a distribution to a favorite charity to continue support. You will find more information about Donor Advised Funds through financial service firms that administer the funds, such as Fidelity or Schwab, or by contacting a local foundation such as Madison Community Foundation.

Bunching or bundling itemized deductions

If you have the flexibility to time the payment of qualifying deductible gifts, you may consider ‘bunching’ or bundling your charitable donations into alternate years. This may increase your likelihood of being able to itemize deductions in alternate years. If you make charitable gifts this way, you might notify the charity that your larger gift is for an extended period – such as two years.

As always, talk to a financial advisor before making decisions about how these tools may alter your tax and financial outlook.