Second Harvest expands services in Idaho

Second Harvest opened its first school pantry in Idaho in April 2016. The pantry, a partnership with Coeur d’Alene Assembly church, Borah Elementary and the University of Idaho’s Eat Smart Idaho program is housed in the church basement and open once a week to anyone in the community.

The new pantry is set up to mimic the format of the new food pyramid, also known as MyPlate. Shelves are organized by food group, and visitors can pick what they like from each section, rather than being given a box of food they may not want, said Eat Smart representative Shelly Johnson.

Johnson, a family and consumer science educator with the University of Idaho, said Eat Smart staff are working with Borah pantry volunteers to offer on-site nutrition education and plan to be on hand once a week, offering recipe samples and nutrition education to clients coming to pick up food. Johnson said she’s excited to see the Borah pantry is a client-choice facility.

“It develops dignity within families,” she said.

The new pantry received its first delivery April 6, and students from the Borah Elementary student council helped unload more than 1,200 pounds of apples, milk, eggs, flour and other staples to stock the shelves, enough to provide about 1,000 meals.

Second Harvest has had a presence in North Idaho for years, said Owen Esperas, community impact director with Second Harvest, primarily through Bite2Go. Bite2Go, which provides weekend meals and snacks to students in high-poverty elementary schools, serves 77 schools in North Idaho. Second Harvest’s food pantries and meal programs also provide more than 69,000 pounds of food each week at no cost to families in North Idaho. However, school officials say many kids are still coming to school hungry.

That’s where school pantries like the one at Coeur d’Alene Assembly come in. Pantry officials plan to keep the branch open twice a week, and stock the shelves with a monthly delivery from Second Harvest’s warehouse, as well as with food from local food drives, Esperas said.

A second Idaho pantry opened at Coeur d’Alene High School in early September, open only to students and their families, Esperas said. The pantry will be managed by the school’s Associated Student Body.

Dan Christ, lead pastor at Coeur d’Alene Assembly, said the new Borah pantry is the result of plenty of planning and cooperation from Borah, Eat Smart and church volunteers. A food pantry has been in the church for years, but church and school officials realized there was a greater need than they could meet on their own. They wanted to help on a wider scale.

Christ, Borah principal Rick Kline, core volunteers Terah and Ryan Chance, and officials from Second Harvest and Eat Smart Idaho began discussing a permanent food pantry on the site.

About 90 percent of Borah students qualify for nutrition aid programs, and Borah itself is in such a high-poverty area that all students, about 330, eat at school for no charge, said Ed Ducar, director of nutrition services for the Coeur d’Alene School District.

“This is an area of town where there aren’t many food pantries, but it’s one of the highest needs,” Christ said.

People in the church and community are eager to get involved, Christ said. They’re already donating food in addition to the monthly supplies from Second Harvest, and several volunteers are being trained to staff the pantry when it’s open once a week.

“One of our values is serving our community with no strings attached,” he said.
As we head into the busiest season of the year, many of us are already filling to-do lists with things to accomplish, presents to buy, events to attend and causes to support. At times like these, it’s easy to forget about the individuals behind charities and events.

I want to share a brief donor story with all of you. The LiveLikeLara Foundation recently did a fundraiser for Second Harvest. The foundation was created by the family of Lara Gass, a Mead High School and University of Washington graduate, who was killed in a car accident in 2014.

In the face of this tragedy, family and friends established the foundation to support causes they knew Lara cared about, including Second Harvest. Gerri Gass, Lara’s mom, let us know how much it inspired their guests when she told them that the $2,500 gift they made last year to Second Harvest provided 12,500 meals for hungry people. This year, Lara’s family and friends went even further, donating $3,000 to help feed families in Spokane.

They put together a dinner at the Saranac Public House on our behalf and delivered a check big enough to provide 15,000 meals to hungry people. What I found incredible was how humble and gracious the donors were. They truly appreciated the opportunity to help hungry people. One line from the note that Lara’s mother, Gerri, sent us read, “It is also so very humbling to see what good is provided to the Spokane community and for our foundation to really feel that sense of caring.” I admire so much their commitment to making good things in memory of their daughter.

In fact, we are the ones who are humbled by their generosity, and by yours. Thank you for all you do to support Second Harvest.

Dear friends,

Jason L. Clark
President and CEO

GENTRI winter show to benefit Second Harvest

Tickets are available right now for an upcoming winter concert Dec. 16 with the three highly-trained tenors of GENTRI: Brad Robins, Casey Elliott and Bradley Quinn Lever. Pioneering a signature sound that can only be described as “Cinematic Pop,” the music of The Gentlemen Trio is transfused with lush, epic orchestrations and rich, dynamic three-part harmonies. Nonperishable food donations and a portion of ticket sales will benefit Second Harvest.

GENTRI’s self-titled debut album was released in March 2015. The record spent 10 consecutive weeks in the Top 10 Billboard charts, including three weeks at No. 2 on both the Classical and Classical Crossover charts. GENTRI has performed with world-renowned talent, including international tenor sensation Alfie Boe and Tony Award-winning vocalist Idina Menzel. They also opened for legendary rock band Journey at the Stadium of Fire, the nation’s largest Fourth of July stadium firework celebration. Other notable events include performing at the Governor of Utah’s annual gala, as well as performing the national anthem for the NBA’s Utah Jazz and MLB’s San Diego Padres.

If you go:
What: GENTRI: The Gentlemen Trio
When: Dec. 16, 7 p.m.
Where: Richland High School Auditorium
New Horizons partner to revitalize school’s food pantry

New Horizons High School in Pasco partnered with Second Harvest in June to provide a food pantry for students and families in need. While the school has had a pantry for four years, donations of food by staff, community members and local organizations hasn’t always been steady. The new partnership with Second Harvest provides a reliable source of food for students who have often been food insecure. Pasco’s distribution center will stock the pantry every two weeks, providing a reliable source of food for students and families.

New Horizons has 219 students, and all qualify for free or reduced lunch. Many struggle to meet their basic needs of food, clothing and shelter. Others are considered homeless, are using transitional housing services, or are in the Teen Parent program. The resulting stress very often results in an inability to focus on learning.

The partnership is already making a noticeable difference, according to lead teacher Michelle Smith. The pantry was open to students and their families during summer school hours, serving 136 students in June.

“Our staff is over the moon about partnering with Second Harvest! Our pantry deliveries even out the ups-and-downs of the quantity of food available, and it takes stress off educators to have a reliable source of food for kids,” Smith said.

New Horizons students run the pantry themselves, helping to unload trucks and put away food. Students help themselves to what they need, which makes it more like a shopping experience. Before, students were shy about asking for food; they would pull the teacher aside to tell them they needed food. Now, kids will encourage others to help themselves or to take food home, educators say.

Older students will ask if they can walk new students over to the pantry to tell them how it works. Smith says this is an important shift. “Kids need safe places where they can be themselves. They need to be comfortable advocating for themselves and their needs. That’s one of life’s lessons. They now know how to negotiate with discretion, and if they do that, others will reach back out in return. They need to have support in a caring environment.”

Career and technical education teacher Jacqueline Brewster said staff put together sample recipe cards so students will know how to use products they might not have used before, like crescent dough, which can be used to make chicken rollups and veggie or fruit pizza. She and the other teachers encourage students to try new foods and to make healthy choices. One of the most popular items at the pantry is canned green beans, which students enjoy snacking on during class.

The pantry has become so important to the school and student success that it has been designed into the plans for its new building opening August 2017 on the campus of Columbia Basin College.

“The pantry has taken a huge pressure and burden off our students,” Smith said. “They’re actively involved, taking ownership and talking about the pantry with pride. I’ve watched their confidence grow. Even more, our food pantry has become an access point where staff can find out about other needs of the students as well.”

The pantry will continue to play a vital role in the success of New Horizons High School. “The mission of our campus is to create a safe haven for all students. We have a wonderful partnership with Second Harvest, and they help us achieve that mission,” Smith said.

Seahawk contributes to local food program

Our partner Feed Sprague, which serves approximately 150 people in Lincoln County, got a surprise donation recently from the Seattle Seahawks! Player Rees Odhiambo was at the Safeway where Jill Sheffels was purchasing groceries for the meal and bought all the food!

Thank you Seahawks, and thanks Jill, for your continued hard work to make Feed Sprague happen every month.

Volunteer Spotlight

Top volunteer groups for Spokane
- Mixed Nuts – 1,431 hours
- Audubon – 732 hours
- Umpqua Bank – 150 hours
- Kohl’s – 82 hours
- Gonzaga University – 81 hours
- Honorable mention: Avista Utilities – 67 hours

Top volunteer groups for the Tri-Cities
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints – 110 hours
- Syngenta – 87 hours
- Sunflower Sisters – 66 hours
- Northwest Farm Credit Services – 51 hours
- Gesa – 48 hours
Thanks to compassionate friends and neighbors

The Allstate Foundation gave $1,000 to Second Harvest this summer to help us feed hungry local families. Thank you Allstate!

Outback Steakhouse generously donated $1,739 as part of their new Northtown restaurant location grand opening. A portion of the proceeds from the day were donated to help Second Harvest fight hunger in our community.

Kevin Guthrie of Kiemle & Hagood stopped by with a check from BOMA’s golf tournament in July. Thanks to everyone who donated! Special thanks to Spokane Building Maintenance for their generous donation to feed hungry school children through Bite2Go.

The CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation generously matched online gifts through the Backpack Buddies Campaign this summer for a total combined contribution of $30,227 to help fight hunger.

Sales at this year’s Lentil Festival helped provide 4,000 meals for hungry people! Thanks to the generous folks at Davidson Commodities for making event happen.

Huckleberry’s Natural Market hosted the Party at the Penthouse at the Paulsen this summer, which raised $12,245 to help fight hunger. Food and beverages were provided by 9th Street Bistro and ACE Sushi, Maryhill Winery, NoLi Brewhouse and 4 Seasons Coffee Co.

This year, The Dairy Month and Northwest Farmers Fighting Hunger campaigns brought in 19,870 pounds of food, as well as $5,666 dollars in donations.

Tyson Foods, Inc. donated a truckload of chicken in June to help eliminate hunger in Eastern Washington and North Idaho. The donated product was distributed throughout our 26-county service area.

Grocery Outlet’s sixth annual Independence from Hunger Food Drive, July 1-31, brought in 1,013 pounds of food and $2,232 in cash, which together provided 12,004 meals from the Kennewick store. The drive culminated in a special shopping dash competition with teams of Tri-Cities’ first responders participating.

Volunteers from Bechtel, AECOM and its Hanford affiliates participated in a large group food sort to mark another successful annual KNDU Bechtel AECOM Feeding Families Food Drive in May.

Lourdes Children’s Summer Day Program conducted its ninth annual food drive, donating 500 pounds of food, which equates to 418 meals for children and families in need.

The Benton Franklin Fair & Rodeo donated $1,770 from its ninth annual Opening Day promotion. Over the past nine years, the fair has helped provide nearly 65,000 meals for hungry kids, families and seniors in our area.

Trios Health and KNDU-TV partnered on a cash-grab promotion at the Benton Franklin Fair & Rodeo. Meteorologist Tim Adams had 30 seconds to grab as much cash as he could in the Trios “Tomato” booth. Even though he grabbed only a few bucks, Trios Health still donated $500 to Second Harvest. Our thanks for this creative and fun promotion!

Second Harvest’s hunger solution center in the Tri-Cities appreciates the partnership of United Way of Benton and Franklin Counties. Second Harvest is proud to be among the funded service providers for 2016-2018 for its Feeding Children Initiative along with a partnership with the WSU Master Gardeners “Build A Bed to Feed a Family” program.

AgriBeef, the Washington State Beef Commission, Washington beef producers, Rosauers Supermarkets and KREM 2’s chief meteorologist Tom Sherry and his BBQ Forecast teamed up for a very successful summer campaign to help Second Harvest get more protein to hungry people through the Beef Counts program. The campaign raised more than $20,000 to purchase beef products for people in need. Since 2010, this beef industry initiative has provided $459,000 (update) worth of beef products – about 750,000 meals – for hungry children and adults.

Thank you to all our sponsors who made Spokane’s Night in the Warehouse event possible in September. Key sponsors include EvoReal, Rehn and Associates, Journey Discover Center, Community Health Plan of Washington and CenturyLink. Food and beverages provided by the Gardens at Sunset, Indaba Coffee, Arbor Crest Wine Cellars, The Scoop, Perry Street Brewing, Bennidito’s Brewpub, NoLi Brewhouse and Trader Joe’s. Special thanks to KXLY 4 and DJ Tapioca.

Thank you to Albertsons stores and the Spokane Association of REALTORS® for their annual Pack the Pantry Food Drive. Held on Sept. 8 and 9, the drive raised food and funds to provide about 94,000 meals to families in need.

Guests attending Pig Out in the Park 2016, held in Spokane’s Riverfront Park over Labor Day weekend, made donations to Second Harvest that were matched by Burke Marketing for a gift totaling $1,750. Thanks to Burke Marketing and all the participating vendors who were involved.

Generous donors and guests at the LiveLikeLara Luau and Pig Roast helped raise $3,000, enough for 15,000 meals, for Second Harvest at the Saranac Public House Aug. 6.

Since 2006, Macy’s Shop for a Cause has partnered with non-profit organizations like Second Harvest to raise more than $47 million for their ongoing charitable efforts. Thanks to everyone who donated this summer!

Second Harvest’s Spokane and Tri-Cities distribution centers earned high marks in recent food safety audits by AIB International, an independent food industry audit company. Both locations received a four-star rating again this year. We’re proud to continue to score in the highest percentiles among other Feeding America affiliates. Food safety is our top priority!
First annual Turkey Drive in the Tri-Cities

DONATE A $30 OR $15 MEAL AT 2-harvest.org/tcturkeydrive

Meal boxes will be distributed Saturday, Nov. 19 at the TRAC in Pasco. Learn more at 2-harvest.org.

17th year for Spokane’s Tom’s Turkey Drive

The massive food drive, entering its 17th year, is scheduled for Nov. 18 and 19 at area Rosauers stores. KREM 2 Chief Meteorologist Tom Sherry – the event’s namesake – is leading the charge to spread the word. KREM 2, Rosauers and other sponsors have set a goal to help Second Harvest collect at least 11,000 Thanksgiving meals for families in need in Spokane.

Go to your local Spokane and Colfax Rosauers stores Nov. 18 and 19 and purchase pre-packed Tom’s Turkey Drive Bags for $20. Each bag has Thanksgiving dinner fixings for a family of four.

Starbucks Fundraiser - Nov. 15, 3 to 5 p.m.
Visit any company-owned Starbucks store (a freestanding location) in Spokane and North Idaho. All proceeds from handcrafted beverage sales during that time will benefit Tom’s Turkey Drive.
Events and Volunteering

Winter Food Drive
Winter is tough for low-income households. When cold weather hits, heat bills rise and what’s left doesn’t always cover enough food. You can help by organizing a food and fund drive at your workplace, church, school or other venue. Learn more at 2-harvest.org/winterfooddrive or contact 252-6257 or fooddrive@2-harvest.org in Spokane or 545-0787 or tcfooddrive@2-harvest.org in the Tri-Cities.

Oct. 1-31 (Spokane and Pasco) Scare Away Hunger
For every 100 cans collected at Scare Away Hunger, happening Oct. 1-31, Global Credit Union will donate $20.

Oct. 17-21 (Spokane) Jay & Kevin Food Drive
The 21st annual Jay & Kevin Food Drive will be held in the KXLY parking lot at 500 W. Boone Ave. Hours will be 6 am-7 pm Oct. 17-20 and 6 am-10 am Oct. 21. Jay & Kevin, from Big 99.9 Coyote Country, will be broadcasting live and accepting food and fund donations, so stop by and make your donations on the air. Or make a gift online at 2-harvest.org/jayandkevin.

Now-Nov. 19 (Pasco) Turkey Drive
Help Second Harvest feed 2,000 Mid-Columbia families in need this Thanksgiving. Your $30 donation provides a holiday box with a turkey and all the fixings for a family in need. Your $15 donation provides a holiday box with the fixings only. Donate online at 2-harvest.org/tcturkeydrive. Meal boxes will be distributed on Saturday, Nov. 19, at the TRAC in Pasco.

Nov. 12 (Spokane) Scouting for Food
The hardworking Boy Scouts are holding their annual drive and have raised more than 1.2 million pounds of food during the past 14 years. Participate by filling a bag with shelf-stable food and placing it on the porch.

Nov. 15 (Spokane and North Idaho) Starbucks Fundraiser
Visit any company-owned Starbucks store (a freestanding location) from 3-5 pm. All proceeds from handcrafted beverage sales during that time will benefit Tom’s Turkey Drive.

Nov. 18-19 (Spokane) Tom’s Turkey Drive
The turkey drive, held at area Rosauers stores and promoted by KREM 2 and its chief meteorologist Tom Sherry, raises Thanksgiving dinners for families in need. To donate, visit Rosauers stores to purchase a $20 bag of all the fixings for a holiday meal or make a cash donation. Donate online at 2-harvest.org/turkeydrive.

Nov. 22 (Spokane): Tom’s Turkey Tuesday
Volunteers help distribute the fixings for Thanksgiving meals to thousands of families and seniors in need at this one-day distribution at the Spokane Arena.

Nov. 24 (Spokane): Turkey Trot
A Thanksgiving morning tradition continues with the annual Turkey Trot, hosted by the Bloomsday Road Runners Club. Please bring your cash and canned food donations. The race starts at 9 am at the Manito Park Duck Pond.

Learn more about these and other volunteer opportunities at 2-harvest.org or contact Jill Wilson in Spokane (252-6257 or volunteer@2-harvest.org) or Lamar Cloy in the Tri-Cities (545-0787 or tcvolunteer@2-harvest.org).

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Monthly Giving

Become a monthly giver and help Second Harvest get healthy food to every person, every day. Every $1 donated helps provide 5 meals for people in need. This fall, Numerica Credit Union is donating $5,000 to match new monthly gifts. Sign up now and double the impact of your donation.

$10 a month = 50 meals or 600 meals per year
$25 a month = 125 meals or 1,500 meals per year
$100 a month = 500 meals or 6,000 meals per year
Other = Every $1 provides 5 meals

Why become a monthly giver? You’ll save time and postage, reduce mail and administrative costs, and help us use more funds to directly benefit hungry families.

Sign up today at 2-harvest.org and click “Give Monthly.”
Our Mission

FIGHTING HUNGER, FEEDING HOPE:

Second Harvest brings community resources together to feed people in need through empowerment, education and partnerships.

Published quarterly by Second Harvest. Volume 24, Edition 4. To remove your name from our mailing list, please call (509) 252-6261 or (509) 545-0787.

Get Involved

Volunteer at the Spokane or Tri-Cities distribution centers, or at a food drive or other event.

Give a gift. Every $1 provides five meals for hungry people.

Organize a food drive to feed our neighbors in need.

Tour our Spokane or Tri-Cities distribution centers. Please call to schedule a time.

Share this newsletter with a friend or colleague. Help the community learn more about how Second Harvest fights hunger and feeds hope.

The donated food Second Harvest provides helps neighborhood food banks and meal programs feed more people. You can be part of the solution to hunger.

Spokane
(509) 534-6678

Tri-Cities
(509) 545-0787