

Healthy Community Alliance of Delaware and Blackford Counties  
Nutrition Workgroup Meeting  
December 12, 2017  
NOTES

The December HCA Workgroup meeting was held at [Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana](#).

Attending: Gretchen Cheesman, Tim Kean, Dorica Watson, Sarah Rivera, Charlotte Cavanaugh from Second Harvest; Kait Williams, YWCA of Muncie; Adrienne Knight, Open Door Health Services, Tony Elder, Westminster Village; John Disher, Matt Cox, IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital Foundation.

Tim Kean and the staff at Second Harvest Food Bank provided an informative presentation about the work Second Harvest is doing to alleviate hunger and shorten the line of need in East Central Indiana.

Its Strategic Plan is designed to help people move from surviving (with social support services) to thriving (in self-sufficiency).

Dorica Watson described elements of the organizations Poverty Alleviation Program and noted that some exciting changes were coming to the makeup of this initiative. A public announcement is coming soon.

Tim described the network of 200 regional food banks encompassed by Feeding America, and how robust its ability is to move food around the country. There is a lot of opportunity to bring in fresh produce (26% of food distributed in 2016 was fresh produce) but the limiting factor is transportation costs.

Food insecurity is defined as not having enough food for all meals. 41 million in US are food insecure, in Delaware County 20,000 people including 5,000 children are food insecure.

Second Harvest works to supplement what people already have- not to provide 'meal kits.' So for instance, a food pantry may have pasta noodles that a client can take home, and then using their SNAP funds they could purchase sauce and a protein to complete the meal.

Sara Riviera talked about the Second Harvest school-based food pantry initiative. The program not only provides food but the act of coming in to pick out food creates a positive interaction between the school and parents, many of whom don't interact at all or when they do it is under less than positive circumstances. School data shows that this program has decreased incidences of negative behavior and improved attendance.

How can HCA Partners create a relationship with Second Harvest?

-Take advantage of the network of relationships that Second Harvest has already built in the schools and community as a way of connecting resources and opportunities

-Volunteers are always needed! This is a great way to engage audiences in a meaningful volunteer opportunity. Large groups are welcome with advance notice, otherwise volunteers are welcome at all times- there is always something to do!

Tim, Sara and Gretchen provided a tour of the warehouse facility and described how goods come to be available: packaging errors, dating (Second Harvest follows USDA guidelines for shelf life, which is often longer than what a store would keep on shelf), discontinued, test market, production problems, size, weight and color of product, etc.

Second Harvest also receives paper products, hygiene items, even furniture and appliances which it also distributes to those in need.

Pantries order supplies using an on-line order form which is updated 2x a day with current supply status at the warehouse.

John Disher and Tim Kean briefly discussed ways for the hospital to collaborate with Second Harvest and will further those discussions at a later date.

The tour included a look at a large indoor space ideal for large community gatherings adjacent to the warehouse, Tim noted it is available for use by community groups.

Sara will send John more info about the diabetic food pantry partnership in Madison County.