



For Immediate Release
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Harvesters will hold food distribution in Wyandotte County on April 30

Food bank will provide food for 1,200 households to help meet increase in need due to COVID-19

Kansas City, MO – Harvesters—The Community Food Network will host a free mobile food distribution in Wyandotte County, Kan. at the site of the former Indian Springs Mall (4601 State Ave, Kansas City, KS 66102) on Thursday, April 30, beginning at 10 a.m.

The distribution will provide food to feed 1,200 households and will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis until all food has been distributed. Each household will receive a box of nonperishable items, a box of fresh produce and some frozen meat items.

The distribution is designed for residents of Wyandotte County and is held in cooperation with the Unified Government of Wyandotte County. Kansas City, Kan. Police will help direct traffic.

Wyandotte County residents should enter the distribution site off of 38th and State Avenue, head south to Orville Avenue and follow that west to the former mall parking lot. Volunteers wearing masks and gloves will load food into cars.

Harvesters normally distributes food through its network of partner agencies, but is hosting this mobile distribution to help ease the burden on its network trying to meet the tremendous increase in demand for food assistance as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Our agencies are seeing anywhere from 30 to 40 percent more people seeking assistance,” said Harvesters’ President and CEO, Valerie Nicholson-Watson. “We’re committed to feeding hungry families and seniors in our community. We currently have an abundance of fresh produce that needs to be distributed quickly, and we know there are so many who are in need of immediate help.”

“COVID-19 continues to challenge the health and financial well-being of our community,” said Mayor/CEO for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, David Alvey. “Not only do our residents face the risk of infection, but many lack the financial resources to pay for food, rent, and utilities. The assistance offered by Harvesters will help many of our most vulnerable to put food on the table, and we are deeply grateful.”

Part of the food distributed at this mobile includes food items received through the USDA’s disaster food program for COVID-19. Additional food from this USDA program is being distributed through Harvesters’

regular network of food pantries and mobile distributions.

More mobile distributions will be added as needed. Plans are underway to host an additional large food distribution in Jackson County, Mo. in early May. Additional details will be announced soon.

Anyone who needs food assistance throughout Harvesters' 26-county service area can find a food pantry, food kitchen or mobile food distribution near their home by entering their zip code in the agency locator on the "Get Help" page of Harvesters' website: www.harvesters.org.

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About Harvesters—The Community Food Network

Harvesters is this area's only Feeding America food bank. Serving a 26-county area of northwestern Missouri and northeastern Kansas, Harvesters provides food and related household products to more than 760 not-for-profit agencies including emergency food pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, children's homes and others. Agencies in Harvesters' network provide food assistance to as many as 141,500 different people each month. Harvesters, which was founded in 1979, is a certified member of Feeding America, a nationwide network of more than 200 food banks, serving all 50 states. For more information, visit www.harvesters.org.