

Second Harvest Heartland Agency Alert

A Monthly Publication of Second Harvest Heartland
Agency Relations Department

JULY 2009



SECOND HARVEST
HEARTLAND

Joining forces to end hunger

WHY SO MANY ACCOUNT SPECIALISTS?

Eighteen months ago, Second Harvest Heartland had one Agency Relations Monitoring Assistant whose primary responsibility was to visit your agency and make certain that you have thermometers in your cooler and freezer and a nail brush at your hand sink. Second Harvest Heartland's mission is to "end hunger through community partners." Our agencies are our partners, and ending hunger has to be about more than thermometers and nail brushes. Ending Hunger is about engaging with you and your community to make certain that every person has access to food. To accomplish this, we have added to our team. A year ago we had three Account Specialists, and then we had four. As of June of 2009 we have seven Account Specialists whose primary job is to help build

capacity to end hunger in the 59 counties assigned to Second Harvest Heartland by Feeding America.

They will still make certain that the thermometers are where they are supposed to be, but they will also share the Missing Meals report for your county.

If you run a food shelf or pantry expect them to ask you about completing the Dashboard tool. Within the next month your Account Specialist will also have benchmarking results for you so that you can compare your agency to the average of your peers. We also have an Agency Self Assessment tool that you may use with your board or volunteers. Together, we will end hunger.

Barb Downs, Director of Field Services

MEET YOUR NEW AGENCY ACCOUNT SPECIALISTS (CONT. ON P. 2)

All 4 Specialists are anxious to meet you, our partners, and to start building relationships!



Charlene Graff

Charlene Graff is our new Agency Relations Account Specialist in southwest MN—south of the MN River. She will work out of Lamberton, MN home.

Charlene's 20 years of experience as a Welfare to

Work Job Counselor fits nicely with her new job responsibilities. "I loved my job," says Charlene. "I have a passion for helping the homeless and the hungry."

Charlene is already a familiar name and face to many in the area; she served as the chair of the Homeless and Hungry committee at the CAP agency board and as a

Emily Seddon

Emily Seddon is not new to SHH but is new to the Agency Relations Account Specialist position. Emily will be working with communities in the outer ring of the Twin Cities Metro area.

Emily, who graduated with a Political Science degree from Macalester College in 2008, started working with our CSFP site partners a year ago. She had worked with non-profits as an intern, including the District Council for Downtown St. Paul, and felt that SHH would be a good fit for her because of the direct service component and program initiatives.



Charlene Graff, cont. fr. page 1

board member at the Wabasso food shelf for 10 years.

“I understand the issues and clients and have worked hand in hand with them daily,” she says. “And I’m familiar with those issues that the rural areas face.”

In addition to working for SHH, Charlene, along with her 2 children, helps her husband on their grain and soybean farm.

SHH Facilities Will Be Closed



**Monday, September 7, 2009
(Labor Day)**

**Amber, Heidi or Gina will call
to reschedule your standing pick up or delivery
when we have a holiday closing.**

If you do not hear from us, please call.

Zoua Her

Like Emily, Zoua has already gotten her feet wet at SHH. Zoua started as an intern for the CSFP and Field Services departments in January 2008. She became a full-time staff member in December 2008 after graduating in May 2008 with a degree in Family Social Science from the University of MN-Twin Cities.



In January 2009, Zoua took on managing the Hunger Study project--an initiative by Feeding America--and has also worked as an Administrative Clerk in CSFP, as a resource for site partners, and she helped start the SNAP pilot program.

She’s anxious to begin her latest challenge. Zoua will be working with communities Northeast of the Twin Cities Metro area and some WI border counties. “I’m excited to do something new,” she said. Her goal is “to build capacity, provide strong and quality support for their needs.”

Contact Zoua at zher@2harvest.org/651.283.2209.

Dale Schimmel

Dale Schimmel, the new Agency Relations Account Specialist working with the 14 Wisconsin agencies that are served by Feed My People, feels his new job is where he’s meant to be.



Dale worked for Silicon Graphic Inc (formerly Cray Research) for 27 years as a payroll manager and at various HR functions. He was laid off recently and started job hunting in the Eau Claire paper when he found the ad for the SHH position.

“God had a plan for me,” Dale said. “I had applied for several other jobs, but this one came together, so this is where I’m supposed to be,” he said.

Dale is passionate about and interested in helping the hungry. In fact, he has 10 years of experience volunteering at 2 local food pantries: St. Francis Food Pantry in Eau Claire, and Chetek Food Pantry.

Contact Dale at dschimmel@2harvest.org/715.475.9557.

Emily Seddon, cont. fr. page 1

She sees many similarities between her work with CSFP site partners and her new challenge and is especially looking forward to the new opportunities for growth that working as an Account Specialist will bring. “I like working with our partner agencies to do more to support our mission,” she said. Contact Emily at eseddon@2harvest.org/651.230.8177.

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