

Second Harvest Heartland Agency Alert

A Monthly Publication of Second Harvest Heartland
Agency Relations Department for its Western WI agencies *JULY 2009*



SECOND HARVEST
HEARTLAND

Joining forces to end hunger

CONFUSED ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHH AND FEED MY PEOPLE?

Feeding America has assigned every county across the country to a Feeding America Food Bank. In Minnesota and Western Wisconsin the food bank is Second Harvest Heartland, and Second Harvest Heartland has a redistribution contract with Feed My People in Eau Claire.

Feed My People takes orders from and delivers food to agencies in Barron, Buffalo, Chippewa, Clark, Dunn, Eau Claire, Jackson, Pepin, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, Taylor, Trempealeau and Washburn counties.

If you have questions or suggestions for topics to be covered in the newsletter, please contact Dale Schimmel (SHH—see box at right) or Michelle Dingwall (FMP) at 715.835.9415 or michelle@fmpfoodbank.org.

SNAP ASSISTANCE

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP; also known as Food-Share) Application Assistance is coming to western Wisconsin this fall! In an effort to support our mission to “end hunger through community partnerships”, Second Harvest Heartland is engaging in initiatives that will focus

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MEET ZOUA



Zoua Her, a new Agency Relations Account Specialist, has already gotten her feet wet at SHH. Zoua started as an intern for the CSFP and Field Services departments in January 2008 and became a staff member in April 2008. She graduated with a degree in Family Social Science from the University of MN-Twin Cities in May 2008.

In January 2009, Zoua managed the Hunger Study project—an initiative by Feeding America.

She’s anxious to begin her latest challenge: working with communities in 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.

MEET DALE

Dale Schimmel, the new Agency Relations Account Specialist working with communities 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.

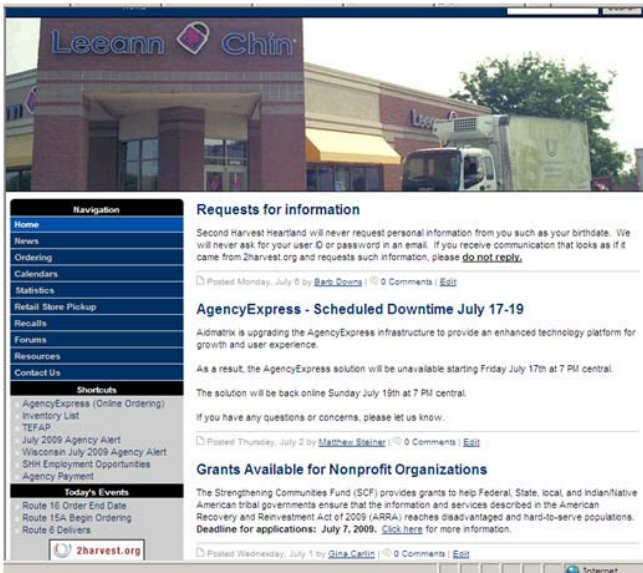
“God had a plan for me,” Dale said. “I had applied for several other jobs, but this one came together, so this is where I’m supposed to be,” he said.

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 Shelf. He looks forward to meeting other agency representatives soon.

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

FEED MY PEOPLE'S NEW FACILITY

You may have already heard... this fall, Feed My People will have more space and a new building. The new warehouse has 19,250 square feet and has three times the capacity of the current facility. There will be more freezer and cooler room, which will provide greater opportunity for a wider variety of items available for your food program. The warehouse is conveniently located near several major Eau Claire highways. Stay tuned for further updates regarding the move-in date and how it may affect your program.



CHECK OUT AGENCY ZONE

Agency Zone is a great information resource. This is where recalls are posted, and you can ask questions of your nonprofit peers using the Forums. Agencies served by SHH may submit their statistics on Agency Zone instead of sending a paper copy. Agencies served directly by FMP should submit their statistics on Feed My People's website.

Go to AgencyZone using the internet at <http://agencies.2harvest.org/>. Look for more details about how to use Agency Zone in upcoming Agency Alerts. (FYI: Agencies served by Feed My People are not able to order using the AgencyExpress online ordering tool.)

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beyond the food bank. Taking advantage of federal programs will help us to fill the "missing meals gap" that exists in Wisconsin, where our research shows an 18% gap between the meals that low-income Wisconsinites need and what they are actually getting each year.

SNAP\FoodShare is a program that is underutilized. We want to encourage income-eligible families and individuals to take advantage of the way that SNAP\FoodShare can stretch their food budget dollars. Our mobile team of SNAP outreach specialists will be working with SHH and FMP agency partners to offer FoodShare application assistance to make sure that applications are submitted to the state office as accurately and completely as possible.

If you're interested in partnering with us in this initiative, please contact Wendy Ogren at wogren@2harvest.org or 651.209.7966.

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