



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Second Harvest Heartland Receives Three Grants from Walmart Foundation**

***Three Grants Brings Total to Over \$100,000***

**St. Paul, Minn.—August 10, 2015** Second Harvest Heartland announced it received three grants from the Walmart Foundation.

The first grant for \$37,250 is to build retail infrastructure capacity, by funding equipment - refrigerated vehicles, coolers and freezers, for transporting, storing and distributing perishable products and facilitating increased distribution of nutritious food. The Walmart Foundation has been instrumental in helping build the capacity of food banks to rescue and distribute more perishable food from retailers across the U.S. in a sustainable, cost-effective way.

The second grant for \$11,000 will fund continuous advancements in food safety operations, which will help Second Harvest Heartland stay current on the food safety certification standards by investing in education and staff training. With food insecurity remaining high throughout the country, the ability to safely distribute more food is critical for food banks.

The third grant for \$55,000 will fund a new staff position to enhance operations. This new position - retail store donation coordinator, will work with local and national retailers to secure more donated food. A staff person dedication to working with retailers, both small and large, to rescue and distribute food that might otherwise go unused, will not only help build the capacity of Second Harvest Heartland, but, ultimately, help better meet the ongoing local need.

“These grants will go a long way to help us meet the growing needs of the people in our communities who are struggling to put food on the table,” said Rob Zeaske, CEO Second Harvest Heartland. “We are grateful to the Walmart Foundation for their generosity in providing these grants, so that we can continue to provide safe and nutritious food to more people.”

Second Harvest Heartland one of Feeding America's 200 member food banks across the country. To learn more about the Walmart Foundation's commitment to fight hunger and its goal to provide four billion meals to those in need in the U.S. over the next five years, visit [foundation.walmart.com](http://foundation.walmart.com).

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#### **About Second Harvest Heartland**

Second Harvest Heartland is one of the nation's largest, most efficient and most innovative food banks. In 2014, we delivered more than 74 million meals to over 1,000 food shelves, pantries and other partner programs serving 59 counties in Minnesota and western Wisconsin. Second Harvest Heartland helps relieve hunger not only by sourcing, warehousing and distributing food, but through data-driven thought leadership and community partnerships that help improve the region's larger hunger relief system. For more information, visit [2harvest.org](http://2harvest.org) or call 651.484.5117