

## Second Harvest Heartland's response to the COVID-19 pandemic

In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Second Harvest Heartland has a plan in place to make sure hungry Minnesotans can access the food they need, during what is sure to be an increase in emergency food assistance as more people miss work and the economy takes a hit.

**Would you be interested in speaking with Second Harvest Heartland's CEO Allison O'Toole about the organization's plans, and how the public can help during this time of heightened need?**

Allison can speak to SHH's plan, which includes:

- **Emergency-food boxes**, which will be shared via the Second Harvest drive through – minimizing contact and risk of illness – and through local food shelves so folks can have a steady supply of food that won't require multiple visits to the food shelf.
- **Working to register people eligible for SNAP** to ensure everyone who needs these benefits can access them. This will be more important than ever, as the amount of people eligible for SNAP benefits will undoubtedly rise, including college student cut off from their on-campus meal plans and individuals who are working less or not at all.
- **Taking extra measures to keep teams and volunteers healthy.** These teams are Second Harvest's greatest champions and their daily efforts to get needed meals into the community are being protected.

She can also speak to how the public can help:

- If you're able to donate dollars online, that's what Second Harvest is most in need of versus food items – both to help fund the emergency food boxes, and to minimize exposure and transfer of the virus. **Just \$50 can provide 150 meals.**

Please contact Elizabeth Cooper at Second Harvest Heartland to arrange an interview:

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