

**Power Pack—Harvesters Weekend Food Program for
Homeless Youth**



The New Homeless High School Student Program

Program Overview

As part of our response to childhood hunger, and in response to the growing population of homeless youth in Kansas City, Harvesters offers a new program which provides food every week to homeless high school students. The program creates a partnership between Harvesters, a participating school, and a local corporate, civic or religious organization.

Harvesters provides the food and supplies, and the partnering organization provides the volunteers every week to pack the bags and coordinate delivery to the schools. School staff distributes them on Friday to the kids, who bring them back on Monday to start the whole process again. The program was piloted in spring 2009 at five high schools in the Kansas City, MO and North Kansas City school districts, providing food weekly to 72 students. This fall, Harvesters plans to expand the program to 500 students across the entire metro area beginning in October.

Methodology

Harvesters will recruit area high schools and organizations who are already working with homeless students, as well as a community partner for each participating school/organization. Each school/organization will identify participants and create a mechanism to distribute the food to the students on a weekly basis. The community partner will be responsible for receiving and storing the Harvesters product, recruiting volunteers to pack the bags, and coordinating delivery of the bags to the schools.

Harvesters will acquire a combination of donated and purchased product including shelf-stable, single serve food items as well as personal hygiene products to use in the program. On a monthly basis, Harvesters program staff will create orders to be delivered to each community partner, approximately one pallet per order with enough product for four distributions. Harvesters will also provide bags (reusable grocery bags) for packing, as well as a pack list for each week for the community partner's volunteers to follow. The community partner is able to purchase extra product to be included in bags, such as fresh produce and bread.

Goal for the fall is to distribute 500 bags weekly for 33 weeks. The proposed allotment is as follows: 100 to NKC, 100 to KCMO, 100 to KCK, 100 to other districts, 100 to non-profits doing street outreach to teens such as Synergy.

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