



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Second Harvest Heartland Welcomes Zach Rodvold as Director of Government Affairs**

*New role for food bank will advance policies at the state, federal levels to end hunger*

**BROOKLYN PARK, Minn. (Jan. 23, 2023)** — [Second Harvest Heartland](#) today announced Zach Rodvold as its first director of government affairs. Rodvold will be responsible for helping the food bank expand its advocacy work and advance policies at the state and federal levels to end hunger, starting in Minnesota.

Rodvold has extensive policy and leadership experience in the public sector. He started his career in the late U.S. Sen. Paul Wellstone’s state office. Rodvold most recently served as Minnesota chief of staff for U.S. Rep. Dean Phillips for each of his first two terms in office.

“I’m thrilled to be joining the incredible team at Second Harvest Heartland as they further expand their advocacy efforts at both the state and federal levels,” said Rodvold. “Access to nutritious food is foundational. In the most prosperous nation on Earth – and a state with a historic \$17 billion budget surplus – there’s no reason we can’t end hunger together, and I’m eager to get to work.”

Rodvold has served at the highest levels of state and federal government in Minnesota, led high-profile political campaigns, and organized statewide issue-advocacy efforts. He has played a role in passing historic legislation and has built and managed high-performing teams.



Second Harvest Heartland’s advocacy and policy work has deepened since 2019 under Allison O’Toole’s leadership. In addition to promoting investments in programs that support food bank operations, such as Farm to Food Shelf and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), Second Harvest Heartland increasingly advocates for solutions to food insecurity that directly benefit people facing hunger, recognizing that we cannot end hunger through food distributions alone. This includes fighting against restrictions to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), supporting the Hunger-Free Schools campaign to bring universal meals to Minnesota, and promoting the continuation of programs that provide financial resources families use to purchase food, such as the enhanced Child Tax Credit and Summer EBT.

“Zach’s policy experience is unmatched, and so is his passion for people,” said Allison O’Toole, CEO of Second Harvest Heartland. “Throughout his impressive career, he’s advocated for policies that improve people’s lives and we’re fortunate to have him join us in the fight to end hunger.”

### **About Second Harvest Heartland**

At Second Harvest Heartland, we work to end hunger together. As one of the nation's largest, most efficient, and most innovative hunger-relief organizations, we leverage our unique position in the emergency food chain to make an impact. In close partnership with a network of 388 food shelves and nearly 1,000 partner programs, we support those in our region facing hunger today. More than a food bank, we’re a leading partner in the policies and programs that work to end hunger, like SNAP, school meals, and senior nutrition programs. And we’re an innovator where food can be the solution, like FOODRx and Kitchen Coalition. Learn more at [2harvest.org](http://2harvest.org).

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