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SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND REPORTS PROGRESS ON *MAKE HUNGER HISTORY* INITIATIVE BY GETTING MORE OF THE RIGHT FOOD, RIGHT WHERE IT'S NEEDED

Food sourcing and operations improvements are getting the nonprofit closer to cutting hunger in half for all Minnesotans by 2030

BROOKLYN PARK, Minn. -- Second Harvest Heartland, alongside business leaders, policymakers, food shelves and hunger relief partners, came together in January to announce [Make Hunger History](#). This new initiative unites these communities in an ambitious goal to cut hunger in half for all Minnesotans by 2030. Now, six months into the initiative, Second Harvest Heartland is reporting that significant adjustments to the organization's operations and sourcing methods have already impacted the effort.

Second Harvest Heartland is improving food sourcing in various ways to secure more of the food neighbors need:

- Through a new partnership with Fresh Connect Central in Indiana, Second Harvest Heartland has begun sourcing meat at a lower price.
- The organization also sources eggs from HATCH, a nonprofit that connects farmers to hunger relief partners, in order to distribute large quantities of this highly-sought-after healthy food.
- Since the start of the fiscal year in October, Second Harvest Heartland has sourced over 1M pounds of protein and distributed almost 20% more protein to date than last year.

"We're out there all the time looking for different opportunities and partnerships to increase protein," said Director of Sourcing and Demand Planning Lindsey Ochmanek. "It's one of the most expensive items that our neighbors have to put on their plates and knowing therefore that it's one of the most in demand [items] at our partners."

Second Harvest Heartland is also updating processes to get food out into the community as quickly and safely as possible:

- By using process mapping and optimizing food storage strategies, Second Harvest Heartland's warehouse teams are assembling food shelf partner's orders faster and getting 20% more pounds of food out the door each day.

- The organization has also cross-trained warehouse staff to increase flexibility and maximize the power of the team to keep up with record demand.
- On the transportation side, Second Harvest Heartland is leveraging data to optimize capacity, delivering food directly from farms to food shelf partners, and increasing route efficiency to deliver more food.

“Since 2018, we have doubled the number of pounds [of food] through our warehouse, and in the past couple of years, we are seeing a 15 percent increase each year,” said Senior Director of Supply Chain Toni Scott. “It takes more people, more equipment, more of everything to make sure that we're delivering against that demand.”

Significant adjustments to Second Harvest Heartland’s operations and sourcing methods have already impacted the effort to cut Minnesota’s hunger in half by 2030, but there are many more pieces to the puzzle. Stay tuned for future progress updates on the *Make Hunger History* initiative.

For more information about *Make Hunger History* and to see a video update about these food sourcing and operations changes, visit <https://vimeo.com/960376696/871db974b4>

ABOUT SECOND HARVEST HEARTLAND

Second Harvest Heartland is a leading hunger-relief organization. In partnership with more than 1,100 food shelves and hunger-relief programs in Minnesota and western Wisconsin, we provided nearly 128 million meals to neighbors last year. We also help families enroll in food assistance and provide prepared meals for people who need more than groceries. Second Harvest Heartland is a leader, convener and voice in hunger-related policy discussions. Learn more at 2harvest.org.

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