



**March 2021**

### **Harvest Board of Directors - Agency Representatives**

The Board is seeking up to three (3) representatives from our partner agencies to join the Board. Partner agencies are food banks, shelters, daycares, schools, and other organizations who partner with Harvest to distribute food to Manitobans in need. Interested persons must send in their application based on the criteria for eligibility by April 24, 2021 at 11:59 PM. To apply, please see the attached Call for Nominations or visit the website: <https://www.harvestmanitoba.ca/harvest-manitoba-community-food-network/>

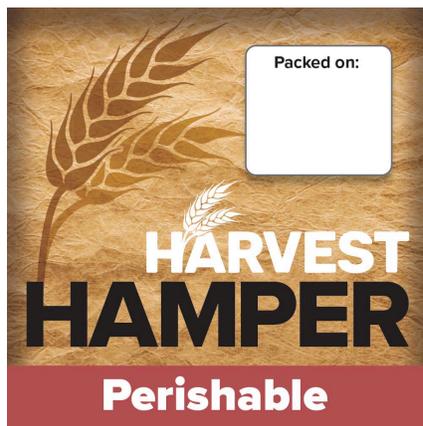
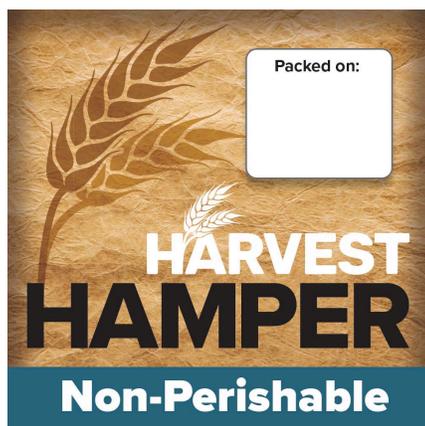
### **Webinar - Harvest Voices Survey Report**

**Date: April 7 from 10-11 am.**

We will be offering FREE webinars on a variety of topics including fundraising, grant writing and volunteer management. Join our first webinar April 7 from 10-11 AM featuring Meaghan Erbus, Harvest Advocacy & Impact Manager, who will give you an advance look at the results of the Harvest Voices Survey of food bank recipients conducted in the fall of 2020. Contact Reynold if you are interested in attending.

### **Harvest Boxes**

Harvest Hampers include largely pre-boxed items in 3 categories: non-perishable, perishable and baby kits. Each of these boxes will have one of these unique stickers, showing the date the box was packed.



### **Food Resource for Clients**

The website HomeFamily.net is distributing a printed booklet, Helping Families Live Well in Manitoba, which we will be including in our Harvest Hampers throughout April. The booklet contains affordable healthy eating tips, food shopping advice, food preservation information, and a mix of recipes using local ingredients. For more information visit [www.homefamily.net](http://www.homefamily.net)

## Food Bank Resources on Website

Our new website [HarvestManitoba.ca](http://HarvestManitoba.ca) has a Harvest Manitoba Food Bank Network member portal, where we will provide various resources including grant information and so on. At the bottom of every web page, you will see the words - ADMIN LOGIN – click on them to access the page and type in this password to enter: **HarvestProud!**

## Rebooking Food Bank Appointments

We have created an appointment card template for rebooking food banks. This allows you to give your clients information about their next appointment in four weeks. Visit the Harvest Manitoba Food Bank Network page on our website via the ADMIN LOGIN to access.

## Free Tax Return Preparation Program

We offer this free service to eligible food bank clients with a modest income. See attached poster to promote to your clients or visit our website ([harvestmanitoba.ca/need-food/need-tax-help/](http://harvestmanitoba.ca/need-food/need-tax-help/)).

## COVID-19 Precautions

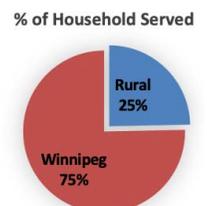
1. Double up tables so there is greater distance between volunteers and clients.
2. Use spray paint, chalk, cones, flags or signs to indicate where clients should stand while they wait.
3. Remind clients that food hampers are all the same, so they do not all have to come at the start time. Normally by coming later contact with others is decreased and you must wait less time in the cold.
4. Have stations spread a part where different clients can receive their food hamper.
5. Allow only one family member into your building.
6. Limit the number of people in your building at one time.

## Agency Pickup - New Procedures

1. If you are showing any COVID-19 symptoms, do not come to Harvest. Use the online screening tool to determine next steps: <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>
2. Buzz the intercom by door 6 BEFORE you enter the building.
3. Only ONE person per agency will be able to enter the warehouse for pick-ups. Others must wait outside. Harvest volunteers and staff can provide loading assistance.
4. Wear a mask on entry.
5. **All guests must now complete a COVID-19 form.**
6. **All guests must not wander through the warehouse without a volunteer and staff.**
7. Wash/sanitize your hands on entry.

## Food Bank Facts

75% of the households served by Harvest are in Winnipeg with 25% outside Winnipeg



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## Lighthouses Kids

As part of Norwest Co-op, Lighthouses Kids works in cooperation with different agencies and community spaces to distribute food to youth, families, and seniors. Marco Sousa, who works with Norwest in community programming and development, has worked over this past year to meet the needs of families through the changes and challenges that came with COVID-19.

“Harvest has been a huge help through this pandemic”, says Marco. From March until June of 2020, 2,180 breakfasts were served to kids and youth during the school shutdown period, and 5,410 snacks were given between March and December of 2020. Lighthouses also distributed community meals 5 days a week, delivered food hampers, and made sandwiches for distribution to seniors.

Alongside other supports, Marco estimates that Harvest provided 40% of the food needed for various programs. Food Kits to serve 4-6 people are assembled with all of the necessary ingredients, as well as a printed copy of the recipe. To enhance the experience, and to set people up for success, a series of cooking videos have also been created so that families can watch and learn as they cook.

Harvest is proud to work with outstanding community members across Manitoba. Thank you, Lighthouses!

