



May 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 May 21, 2021 at 11:59 p.m.

To apply please visit the website: <https://www.harvestmanitoba.ca/harvest-manitoba-community-food-network>.

Webinars

We have two webinars planned for June. If interested contact Jamie (information below), indicate your food bank name and which webinar(s) you wish to attend. More webinars are planned for fall regarding *Communicating your Food Bank Story and Fundraising*.

June 3 (10-11 am):

Grant Writing with Colleen McVarish (Harvest's Director of Corporate Partnerships)

June 22 (10-11 am):

Volunteer Recruitment & Management with Jeff de Denus (Harvest's Volunteer Services Manager)

Masks and Hand Sanitizer

Over the next few weeks we will be distributing hand sanitizer and disposable face masks to our food bank network. The hand sanitizer is for you to use at your food bank and the face masks are for the food bank clients. We may not have enough face masks to reach all clients in the four-week cycle.

Food Bank Resources on Website

Our new website (www.harvestmanitoba.ca) has a portal for food bank resources. At the bottom of every web page there is a link to ADMIN LOGIN. Click on the link and type in the password: **HarvestProud!**

New Canada Food Guide Webinar

We hosted a webinar on the changes to the Canada Food Guide with a Community Nutrition Educator from the WRHA. You can find the recording of the webinar on the portal for food banks.

Closed Toed Shoes

With the warmer weather, this is your annual reminder that you must wear closed toed shoes when picking up your meal/snack food at Harvest Manitoba. You will not be allowed in the warehouse with sandals, flip flops, or other footwear that does not cover your toes.

Door 3

For those who use Door 3 for food bank pick-ups, for COVID and safety precautions Door 3 will be locked for entry. There is a buzzer outside and phone numbers to call if you need to gain entry.

COVID-19 Precautions

Here are a few suggestions to keep the two-meter distance between clients and volunteers:

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 have to 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 - COVID 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

Family breakdown for rural and Winnipeg food banks:

Single Parent/guardian with children under 18	16%
Two Parent/guardian with children under 18	23%
Couple with no children	15%
Single People	37%
Other	1%
Don't know	8%





Pan Am Place during COVID

Located in the downtown core, Pan Am Place is a transitional housing program for men that takes a multi-faceted approach to wellness, addiction, and healing. Residents are required to fulfill certain kinds of duties, and work on skill-building, such as maintaining the facility, training with staff at the in-house boxing gym, and volunteering. How this looks has changed over the last year, and has presented challenges and opportunities says Aaron Black, Manager of Pan Am Place.

One of the biggest changes was a move to an indefinite curfew to keep the residents of Pan Am safe, and this provided a couple of challenges.

Demands on utilities, food, and other resources, such as personal hygiene, noticeably increased, because residents were physically located in the building all of the time. This is where Harvest Manitoba was able to help. Originally, says Aaron, Pan Am started accessing Harvest for personal hygiene supplies, and then started accessing surplus food when it was available. Accessing these resources through Harvest means that budgets can be utilized to meet the needs of residents in other ways.

The curfew also meant that social interaction and volunteer opportunities were also restricted. To address this challenge, Pan Am solicited donations for used technology; cell phones, tablets, and older computers were gathered. This technology meant that residents would be able to connect to others virtually for social reasons, as well as for practical reasons, such as scheduling time in the kitchen. This also meant that certain kinds of programming, such as AA meetings, were still possible, and ultimately formed a very tightly knit community within Pan Am.

Harvest is proud to work with Pan Am - alongside creative, dedicated, and passionate people, we are able to better meet the needs of our communities. Thank you, Pan Am!

