



Nov./Dec. 2011

VOLUNTEER NOTES

Ending hunger in southwestern Wisconsin through community partnerships

EDITION
31

Important Dates:

Check-Out Hunger: Oct. 31- Dec.11

NBC 15 Share Your Holidays
Grand Finale: Dec. 8



DeNae Gitonga,
Volunteer Services Manager

New Volunteer Services Manager!

My name is DeNae Gitonga, and I am the new Volunteer Services Manager for Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin. I joined the organization just this past August.

I am so happy to be working for an organization with a mission for compassion and service to the community. I am also happy to be working with amazing volunteers who go above and beyond to help those in need.

I was raised on a small farm in Oklahoma, but moved to Wisconsin to attend college. I earned my bachelors of science at Northland College in Ashland, WI. It was during my studies that I discovered my interest in food related issues. After working on an organic farm and writing grants for community food projects, I decided to go back to school. I

earned my masters of science at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point. I completed research on local marketing opportunities for small farmers in the Chequamegon Bay area. During my summer break of 2007, I developed and taught a nine week course on Value-added Agriculture Opportunities for small farmers in Kitui, Kenya.

After graduating, I spent time working and building a family. In 2010 I worked in Stevens Point, WI for the Resiliency Project in the Giving Gardens as the Volunteer Coordinator. This led me to the Volunteer Services Manager position at Second Harvest Foodbank of Southern Wisconsin.

Thank you all so much for being flexible and patient as I grow into this position. I feel blessed to be a part of such a wonderful organization.

Expanded Volunteer Hours

Recently, we have expanded our hours of operation for volunteer individuals and groups to participate in the evening from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday. Also, we have opened the weekend for volunteer groups of 10 individuals or more on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

New volunteers are welcome to complete an application; which

you can download from our website:

SecondHarvestMadison.org

Please look under the "You Can Help" button on the banner and then click on the "Give Time" tab on the left side. The four application documents are listed in orange print.

Returning volunteers and group volunteers can contact DeNae

Gitonga to discuss a schedule or available dates and times.



Kraft Delicious Difference Day

On October 6th, Oscar Mayer and Kraft Foods provided 57 employee volunteers to Second Harvest Foodbank. They began at 9:00 a.m. and finished at 7:00 p.m.! The three-crew group graciously and joyfully processed 29,695 pounds of food!



The Cheerful Morning Kraft Crew



The Afternoon Kraft Crew Labeling Cans

Hunger on the Home-front

In recent headlines, hunger has been plaguing Sub-Saharan African countries. Though hunger is evident all over the world, we can also see it here in our own communities across southern Wisconsin.

In the past year, crops have been damaged due to severe drought and natural disasters like tornados and tropical storms. Subsequently:

- less food will be produced,
- the cost of the available food will be higher,
- companies will donate less (because they have less, and what they do have is more valuable),
- supermarket prices will rise,
- demand at food pantries will also rise.

The ripple effect of a poor growing season will mean that Second Harvest Foodbank will look for more food and fund drives to help stock the shelves.

With increased food and fund drives, we will need more



volunteers to help process the food efficiently.

Second Harvest Foodbank has great opportunities for individuals and groups to donate food, money, and time. If you are interested in reaching out to help end hunger here in our southwestern Wisconsin, please contact DeNae Gitonga at 608-216-7214 or DeNaeG@shfbmadison.org.

I look forward to working with you to help end hunger!



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Unable to Volunteer?

If you're unable to attend your scheduled volunteer shift, let DeNae Gitonga know **by 12 p.m. one business day prior to your absence** so a replacement can be secured.

Thank you for your continued support!