FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact Information:

Gene Hallinan
Communications Manager
Harvesters - The Community Food Network
816.929.3071/913.231.4849
ghallinan@harvesters.org

Emily Brown
Public Relations Coordinator
Mid-Continent Public Library
ebrown@mymcpl.org
O: 816.503.4187
M: 816.809.9630

Harvesters’ Kids Cafe Programs Begin This Month

Library Supports Program to Help Alleviate Childhood Summer Hunger

Greater Kansas City, MO – As part of its Childhood Hunger Initiative and to help alleviate summer childhood hunger, Harvesters – The Community Food Network is offering its summer feeding program—Kids Cafe—at more than 65 sites this summer including six Mid-Continent Public Library branches.

“Summer can be a challenging time for many children whose families struggle with food security,” said Christen Stein, Associate Director for Public Services at MCPL. “By hosting Harvesters’ Kids Cafe program at our branches, Mid-Continent Public Library can serve as a temporary solution to this community concern until schools are back in session.”

Working with the USDA and the states of Kansas and Missouri, Harvesters' Kids Cafe offers free summer meals. The summer theme, “Meet and Eat,” welcomes all children and teens ages 18 and younger to come and meet up with their friends and enjoy a healthy meal. Many sites provide activities as well. Mid-Continent Public Library, for example, will offer numerous free programs for children this summer as part of its annual Summer Learning Program, which encourages kids and teens to stay intellectually engaged over the summer months.

All summer sites accept walk-ins and do not require pre-registration. Mid-Continent Public Library’s Kids Cafe sites will be in operation from June 1 to August 10. A full list of Kids Cafe sites can be found on Harvesters’ website.

The Mid-Continent Public Library sites are as follows:

- Buckner Branch, 19 E. Jefferson St., Buckner, MO
  - Food will be served on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- Grandview Branch, 12930 Booth Lane, Grandview, MO
  - Food will be served Monday-Friday from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.
- North Independence Branch, 317 W. 24 Hwy, Independence, MO
Food will be served Monday-Friday from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

- **Red Bridge Branch, 11140 Locust St., Kansas City, MO**
  - Food will be served Thursdays from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

- **Riverside Branch, 2700 NW Vivion Rd., Riverside, MO**
  - Food will be served Monday-Thursday from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m.

- **South Independence Branch, 13700 E. 35th St. South, Independence, MO**
  - Food will be served on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.

“Of the nearly 353,000 people who turn to Harvesters for emergency food assistance, nearly 20 percent of them are children,” said Valerie Nicholson-Watson, president and chief executive officer of Harvesters. “Through our childhood hunger programs like Kids Cafe, we are reaching out specifically to those children in need in our community. Kids should not have to worry about where their next meal is coming from.”

Working with community partners, Harvesters serves meals at schools, libraries, parks, pools, community centers and churches throughout its 26-county service area. Kids Cafe utilizes the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) and the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). CACFP and SFSP are federally funded programs through the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and are administered by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, Bureau of Community Food and Nutrition Assistance in Missouri and the Kansas Department of Education, Child Nutrition and Wellness in Kansas.

To find additional summer feeding sites, please visit the Kansas State Department of Education, Child Nutrition & Wellness at [www.kn-eat.org](http://www.kn-eat.org), or the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

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**About Harvesters—The Community Food Network**

Harvesters is a regional food bank and was Feeding America’s 2011 Food Bank of the Year. Serving a 26-county area of northwestern Missouri and northeastern Kansas, Harvesters provides food and related household products to more than 620 not-for-profit agencies including emergency food pantries, community kitchens, shelters, and others. Agencies in Harvesters’ network provide food assistance to as many as 141,500 different people each month. Harvesters, which was founded in 1979, is a certified member of Feeding America, a nationwide network of more than 200 food banks, serving all 50 states. For more information, visit [www.harvesters.org](http://www.harvesters.org).

**Access Your World**

Mid-Continent Public Library is the largest library system in the Kansas City metropolitan area, operating 31 branches and three Library-To-Go locations and serving more than 800,000 people in Jackson, Clay, and Platte Counties. The Library strives to enrich our citizens and communities through expanding access to innovation, information, ideas, and inspiration. MCPL is a 2014 National Medal for Museum and Library Service winner. Connect with the Library on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com), [Twitter](https://twitter.com), and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com).