

School Food Pantry Program

- Started January 2013. As of January 2017, operate 29 pantries in 3 counties (27/urban and 2/rural). Funded by donors restricting dollars to the program and a particular county.
- Urban schools operate on pull method; rural schools operate on push method in terms of receiving food from Second Harvest.
- Overall service numbers to-date:
 - o 16,331 households (duplicated)
 - 72,195 individuals (duplicated)
 - o 22,204 food boxes
- During FY 16/17, monthly averages:
 - o 451 households
 - o 2,307 individuals
 - o 744 food boxes
- Pantries meant to serve students, families of students and staff of school district.
- Distribution includes canned vegetables, canned fruit, rice, beans, peanut butter, canned entrees/soup, canned meat, cereal, pasta and pasta sauce.
- Provide customized flyer PDF to each school. They also use parent email/newsletter, notes home, word of mouth and booths at parent night/school events.
- Lessons learned:
 - Seek out schools with Family Resource Center or family / community involvement staff.
 - Critical to find someone passionate about feeding kids/families success!
 - Provide box/bag for assembling. We provide cloth reusable bags w/o logo.
 - Be willing to substitute items based on cultural needs/preferences, access to stove/microwave, etc.

