



# KENTUCKY HARVEST

## Our History

On June 22 1987, Stan Curtis was in line at the Morrison's Cafeteria. He was about to ask for some green beans when someone emerged from the kitchen and took the partially emptied pan. Quickly, a full pan of green beans was brought out as a replacement. As Stan got his order, he asked one of the cafeteria workers about the destination of the leftovers taken. To his surprise he was told that they would be thrown away. He was also told that the restaurant wanted to keep things full and fresh for their customers. Stan couldn't believe that they would just be thrown out and wasted.

That day was a turning point in Stan's life and a turning point in the way people would look at feeding the hungry from then on.

You see, Stan's vision was one of getting food from people who had it, but didn't need it – to those who needed it, but didn't have it – FREE of charge. Louisville and the Commonwealth of Kentucky were put on notice: HUNGER WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE.

The wheels of Kentucky Harvest were put in motion by asking bakeries, restaurants, schools, hospitals, and grocery stores to donate their unused food. Also, the request was sent out to the community for volunteers to pick up and deliver food, to set up logistics, serve as board members, and the response was incredible. The unusual, yet sensible characteristics of this thing called Kentucky Harvest was that it cut out the middle man, govt bureaucracies and red tape.

In the first year, large companies in the area such as KFC, Humana, UPS, Blue Cross and Blue Shield and many local area restaurants, schools and churches started calling to donate their food and volunteer services.

You see, this is the backbone of KY Harvest – People helping People.



Later that year, Ann Landers' column featured a story about Kentucky Harvest. In it was the 1-800 toll free number that had been donated free of charge by AT&T. When folks started reading the article, the phone number started ringing off the wall! And USA Harvest was born. People and cities from all around the country wanted to know how they could model Kentucky Harvest in their community.

It didn't take long for celebrities and political figures to stand up and take note of this tremendous concept, Kentucky Harvest, being modeled around country. Soon, many of them rolled up their sleeves and pitched in too.

The effectiveness of a volunteer network, like Kentucky and USA Harvest, is shown when there are national emergencies that require food and require it fast! In the aftermath of such tragedies as Hurricane Andrew, the Oklahoma City bombing and

Hurricane Katrina food and volunteers were mobilized for a quick delivery on the scene.

In 2001 and in 2006 Kentucky Harvest took on two unprecedented projects. The first, in 2001 – Million in a Month – the project's goal was to raise 1 million pounds of food in 1 month's time in the Louisville area for the needy. Hundreds of people and organizations responded with a whopping 3.2 million pounds! From large companies like Ford and GE to Sunday School classes and sewing clubs, the community rallied for the cause. In 2006, the bar was raised higher by taking the project state-wide. This time called Millions in a Month, the goal was set at 11 million pounds of food in 1 month for the entire commonwealth. In the end, cities and communities all across Kentucky rolled up their sleeves and raised over 13 million pounds for shelters, missions and food pantries across the state.

It has been over 20 years of People Helping People at Kentucky Harvest. In this time, over 47 million pounds of food has been raised and donated to shelters, missions and food pantries throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.



Literally hundreds of people and companies have stood up and joined together in the belief that hunger is unacceptable.

People Helping People is what will make Kentucky, America and the world a better place.

