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### Summer Park Hours

**Friday** 4 pm to 8 pm

**Saturday** 12 pm to 8 pm

**Sunday** 12 pm to 8 pm

*Weather permitting*

### Skating Rink Hours

**Friday** 8 pm to 11 pm

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**Saturday** 8 pm to 11 pm

**Sunday** 12 pm to 2 pm

*All other times are for private parties, events, and fundraisers.*

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## Mission of Love

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forged new contacts with food distributors. In fact, these new contacts with local and regional food providers have been the reason for the development of Mission of Love into being the first regional food hub able to provide other local food pantries with needed food supplies. Second Harvest and Mission of Love food bank have developed a model program to secure enough food partnerships, so that it will be an easy transition of Mission of Love into the main supplier of food products throughout the Slate Belt region, which will go a long way towards relieving the food insecurities that the local food pantries are experiencing.

The reason the Second Harvest and its partnering agency Mission of Love food bank is seeking funding is to provide additional temperature controlled storage space. The additional food partnership will require cold storage space with this capacity Mission of Love Food Bank with Second Harvest guidance can turn into the Slate Belt's area's Food HUB. With the temperature controlled storage this will allow Second Harvest and Mission of Love to finally receive those high quality protein items like dairy, milk, and meat products that are currently unable to distribute. The ability to receive and store this high quality food nutrition will give families especially school age children access to this high quality protein.

Second Harvest and Mission of Love will continue to operate their "front line" site giving out food directly to the hungry, and now will jointly develop the warehouse and distribution model. The ability to grow Mission of Love into a Food Hub with a temperature controlled food storage warehouse is an important step to address the areas food insecurities with the ability to maintain a static level of food so that other intermediaries like the other Slate Belt food pantries, soup kitchens and to other front-line organizations can draw off this level of food and not experience these chronic food shortages.

### REGIONAL FOOD HUB PLAN

Second Harvest and Mission of Love's plan is to grow this agency into becoming the Slate Belt region's single food hub that will act as a centralized warehouse and distribution point to serve the area's front line agencies. Second Harvest will grow Mission of Love's current ability into a food hub that will serve as a single collection and distribution point for food donations. Second Harvest plans on using Mission of Love to operate a lot like a for-profit food distributor, but in this case it distributes food to other non-profit food pantries, not to food retailers. There is no charge to other food pantries, but the regionalization will assist to help defray the cost of cold storage and truck fuel costs for distribution.

Second Harvest and Mission of Love receives most of their donated food from food left over after the normal processes of for-profit companies. It can come from any part of the food chain, e.g. from growers who have produced too much or whose food is not sufficiently visually appealing; from manufacturers who overproduced; or from retailers who over-ordered. Often the product is approaching its "sell by" date and refrigeration especially during the spring and summer months is critical to extending the usefulness of the product and getting it into the hands of needy families.

Second Harvest and Mission of Love obtain other sources of food from the general public, sometimes in the form of food drives and government programs that buy and distribute excess farm products mostly to help support higher commodity prices. Second Harvest and Mission of Love have been fortunate to be on the receiving end from food either from retail markets or from wholesalers, manufactures from their supply chains. Sometimes farmers will send over leftover crops for free once their primary harvest is complete. The need for the refrigerator storage space is key to preserving the freshness and useful life of these products. The refrigerated storage capacity will allow Second Harvest and Mission of Love to accept fresh produce providing a healthy alternative that the traditional canned or packaged food.

Second Harvest and Mission of Love food pantry are part of a growing Northampton County awareness of the importance of nutrition. As an example, before the pandemic Second Harvest and Mission of Love Food Bank started accepting perishable food, reporting that as well as the obvious health benefits, there were noticeable health benefits to senior citizens when they were given fresh food. Summer can be a challenging time for any Food Bank, especially in the Slate Belt region where school children are usually given regular free meals during school term. Handling these demand spikes may also coincide with periods where donations fall due to the summer time lull experiences. With the refrigerator storage capacity these lulls can be bridged using the capacity to maintain a steady supply.