# The amazing journey of a Harvest meal



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Today we follow the journey of a Harvest holiday meal from farm to table.



From your hands to their holiday table



How our community of Harvest Stars comes together to put food on 80,000 tables.

# **Step 1: Donations from your hands**

It starts with a gift. It takes money, tins for the bin, volunteering and corporate giving to make this happen. Let's follow the 16,000 pounds of chicken from Manitoba Chicken Producers that will be the holiday dinner for vulnerable Manitobans this year.



## Step 2: Collection

Eighty-five farm families set aside three-to-five pound chickens for Harvest. Dunn-Rite and Exceldor process, freeze and deliver them to Harvest. Sometimes we pick up chickens and other products in our fleet of trucks sponsored or purchased with assistance from corporate partners such as Manitoba Blue Cross, Canadian Tire Regent, Tru-Green Recycling, Maxim Truck and Trailer and Walmart Canada.



### Step 3: Arriving at the warehouse

The chicken arrives at the Winnipeg warehouse where the Harvest crew takes it off

the trucks and stores it in our newest freezer. It was built during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 with foundation grants, which are crucial to fulfilling the Harvest mission.

## Step 4: Sorting and making hampers

Volunteers, community and corporate groups sort and pack Harvest hampers to feed up to 80,000 Manitobans a month.

They include perishable and non-perishable boxes and baby kits where needed. Approximately 80 per cent of these kits are donated by corporate retailers and 20 per cent from the community through food and fund drives

### **Step 5: Shipping across the network**

Volunteer drivers help us to deliver most of the one million pounds of food we share every month to the Harvest community food network of food banks and agencies, such as schools, daycares and soup kitchens across Manitoba (about 325 locations).

### **Step 6: Distribution**

Local volunteers and staff at food banks and agencies supported by Harvest then distribute the hampers — with the special chicken item — to families who have applied to Harvest for nutrition assistance.



## Step 7: Our bounty shared

Finally, in their own homes, Harvest families who gave and Harvest families who received all share a holiday meal with their loved ones. And even though we can't all be at the same table, at some moment during the meal, we'll all know what it means to live in, and be, a community of Harvest Stars.

For more information on Harvest Manitoba and its programs, visit www.harvestmanitoba.ca