Second Harvest’s mission is to feed hungry people and to work to solve hunger issues in the community. Through programs such as the Emergency Food Box, the Mobile Pantry, and Kids Café, Second Harvest serves hundreds of hungry people in need throughout Middle Tennessee. This past summer I was lucky enough to work alongside those at Second Harvest and help them in their mission to end hunger.

My job as an intern consisted of numerous tasks such as entering data about donors and events into a program called Raiser’s Edge as well as researching local foundations in West Tennessee. One of the most important tasks I completed as an intern was composing thank you letters to send out to our generous donors. This endeavor consisted of writing and re-writing numerous letters—one for every month of the year along with ones specifically geared towards child hunger, first time donors, and the Middle Tennessee Table. The goal behind these letters was not only to thank those who had donated but also to encourage them to continue contributing.

Another important task I was assigned to complete was to reach out to donors by phone in order to raise funds for one of our main summer events: Stars for Second Harvest. This event was hosted at the Ryman Auditorium where several country music stars donated their time and talent to help Second Harvest raise money to feed hungry people in need. The lineup included Florida Georgia Line, Nelly, and Craig Wiseman. To raise awareness about the event, we not only made phone calls, but we went to the streets of downtown Nashville to hand out flyers and inform the public about where the ticket proceeds would be going: to feed hungry people.

Another event I was able to participate in was Ode to Otha—a block party held in honor of Oatha Turner’s birthday. A famous Mississippi fife and drum music legend, Mr. Turner is
celebrated by his descendants and the public with food, music, and fun while raising funds for Second Harvest.

Although my career has taken a turn towards marketing and sales within the medical field, I thoroughly enjoyed the time I spent working with a non-profit such as Second Harvest. Getting exposure to tasks such as event planning, fundraising, and writing professional compositions while simultaneously helping those in need was a great and rewarding experience. I recommend this internship to anyone who is looking for a career in event planning and fundraising who is also interested in making a difference in their community.