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## Second Harvest to Open Grocery Store

(KAIR) -- Second Harvest Community Food Bank is ready to make history as it prepares to open the nation's first nonprofit grocery store associated with a food bank.

Fresh Start, Your Community Market will open its doors on Monday.

Fresh Start was created to expand food access in a dignified way by providing a local, nonprofit shopping experience in an atmosphere that promotes autonomy and choice.

To shop at Fresh Start, Interim Executive Director Chad Higdon says a person must first obtain a no-cost Fresh Picks membership card.

(Play Audio) RT: :22

The Fresh Picks program is made possible through generous donors and provides food free of charge to Members.

Additionally, Fresh Start will open access to nutritious food at affordable pricing, utilizing multiple forms of payment including cash, debit and eventually SNAP (formerly, food stamps).

A critical component of Fresh Start will be its Empowerment Program.

Fresh Start will train individuals through a 10-week program in retail best practices.

These trainees will go through a one-week internship with a local retail store.

At the completion of the program, Fresh Start graduates will be placed into employment in the retail industry.

Higdon says the new store is aimed to tackle food insecurity issues in the community.

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Fresh Start will be open Monday through Saturday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Second Harvest serves 19 counties in Northwest Missouri and Northeast Kansas.

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