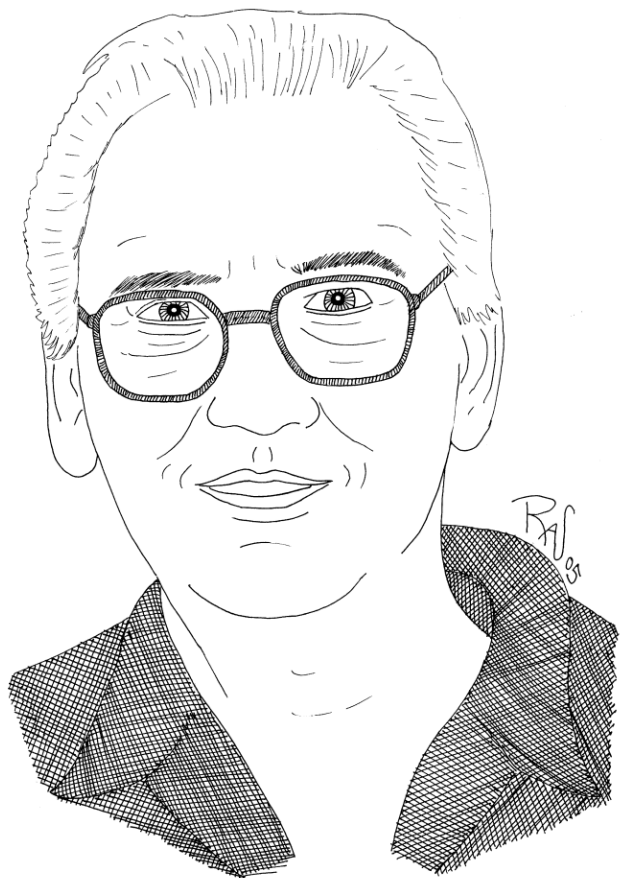


Be a Hero for a Better World

John van Hengel (1923-2005)

John van Hengel set out to change his life and ended up changing the world. While volunteering at a soup kitchen a woman told him that she often got the food to feed her children by going through grocery store garbage cans. She told him that the food was perfectly good and that, just as there is a bank to store money, there should be a place to store excess food until people need it.

With this idea as inspiration, John van Hengel created the world's first food bank. He borrowed money from his church, St. Mary's Basilica, which also loaned him one of their buildings to use. Then he contacted local groceries and bakeries, and in 1967 the St. Mary's Foodbank in Phoenix, Arizona opened its doors. Across the nation and around the world, others were inspired by this idea to create local community food banks. In 1976 John van Hengel started America's Second Harvest - a national food bank network that has grown to include more than 200 food banks that donate food to 50,000 agencies, providing food for 23 million Americans.



"It's amazing how many people are being fed because of this crazy little thing we started. We're feeding millions and it is not costing anyone anything."

-- John van Hengel
"The Father of Food Banking"

John van Hengel was born on February 21, 1923 in Waupun, Wisconsin

Be A Hero For A Better World!

1. Find out more about this hero
2. Pledge to help end hunger (iaahp.net)
3. Hold an event to raise awareness about the problem of world hunger
4. Contribute to an organization working to end hunger

Organizations Helping End Hunger

- Alliance To End Hunger (alliancetoendhunger.org)
- America's Second Harvest (secondharvest.org)
- End Hunger Network (endhunger.com)
- Food For All (foodforall.org)
- Oxfam America (oxfamamerica.org)
- World Hunger Year (worldhungeryear.org)
- The Hunger Site (hungersite.org)

Free Online: EndHungerBook.com

For more information: www.betterworldheroes.com/van-hengel.htm

BetterWorldHeroes.com

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