

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 3, 2011



Second Harvest Food Bank
Greater New Orleans and Acadiana

Media Contact:

Linzy Cotaya, Second Harvest

504.473.6494

lcotaya@secondharvest.org

*****PHOTO OPPORTUNITY*****

*****MEDIA ALERT*****

**SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK RESPONDS WITH SUPPORT TO FOOD BANKS
ON THE FRONT LINES OF TORNADO RESPONSE**

Second Harvest sends truckloads of water and meals to help meet the need

New Orleans, LA—Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana, a member of the Feeding America network of food banks, is lending support to food banks on the front lines of the disaster response efforts due to the recent devastating tornados that crossed the southeastern states.

Second Harvest Food Bank has already sent two truckloads of water with 10 additional trucks scheduled to leave this week headed to some of the hardest hit areas including Raleigh, North Carolina, and Northport and Huntsville, Alabama. In addition to truckloads of water, Second Harvest will also provide 2,064 cases of MREs (Meals Ready to Eat) and nearly 28,000 meals in family disaster boxes. As the need continuous to change quickly, Second Harvest is prepared to assist with additional emergency food resources.

“Disaster response efforts demonstrate the magnificent ability of Feeding America food banks to mobilize and respond quickly, massively and supportively to any community in the U.S. in crisis,” said Natalie Jayroe, president and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana. “It was through the amazing spirit, generosity and commitment of many talented people from food banks nationwide that Second Harvest Food Bank was able to respond quickly to the tragedy, loss and need created by the devastating storms of 2005.”

The family disaster boxes, scheduled for delivery later this week, were packed by 200 volunteers and staged at Second Harvest Food Bank in commemoration of the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina. The disaster food box packing event was held in partnership with Feeding America in August 2010 as a way to give back and reflect on the devastating storms of 2005 that left thousands in need of emergency food assistance across south Louisiana and beyond.

“It is not only an obligation, but a great honor to be able to give back to some of the same food banks that helped Second Harvest and south Louisiana when we were in need,” added Jayroe. “In the event that we might need disaster assistance in the months ahead, we know that there will be emergency food boxes, water, supplies, and technical and staff support available through the Feeding America network to fulfill our critical role in disaster response.”

Network-wide, 11 states are receiving help from the Feeding America network to recover from the recent disasters. As of this past weekend, FEMA reports 238 confirmed fatalities, 2,064 injuries and 21 missing persons. Fortunately none of the food bank facilities in the affected areas suffered damage from the storms, although one is currently operating without power.

For more information on the response efforts or to make a financial donation please visit, The Alabama Food Bank Association, www.alfoodbanks.org or Feeding America, www.feedingamerica.org.

Editor’s Note:

- *Picture of a palette of water being loaded on a truck bound for Alabama is attached. To find out the schedule of remaining trucks this week please contact Linzy, 504.473.6494.*
- *Pictures from the Second Harvest Food Bank disaster food box pack are available. Please contact Linzy, 504.473.6494.*

Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana is leading the fight against hunger in south Louisiana through food distribution, education, advocacy and disaster response. Annually, Second Harvest serves approximately 263,000 people through 240 nonprofit and faith-based agencies across 23 south Louisiana parishes – from the Mississippi border to the Texas state line. In any given week, nearly 42,000 people access emergency food services through Second Harvest Food Bank member agencies. Second Harvest Food Bank is an affiliated ministry of Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans and a member of Feeding America. To learn more about Second Harvest Food Bank or donate food, money or time, please visit www.no-hunger.org.

#