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Second Harvest Food Bank
Greater New Orleans and Acadiana

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Second Harvest Food Bank Ready to Respond in Parishes Bracing for Possible Flooding

May 11, 2011, New Orleans, LA -- As the swelling waters of the Mississippi River and the anticipated opening of the Morganza Floodway have communities bracing for the possibility of flooding, Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana is readying for the potential need for emergency food assistance and cleaning supplies.

“It’s our job to respond to the everyday disaster of hunger and the extraordinary events that create even greater hardship for families in the communities we serve,” said Natalie Jayroe, President and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank. “With a long history of emergency response experience and a strong network of partner agencies in local communities throughout south Louisiana, we are ready to respond as needed.”

In the event of an emergency or disaster, Second Harvest Food Bank will distribute food, water and supplies to partner agencies from its two warehouses: 700 Edwards Avenue in the New Orleans area; and 215 E. Pinhook in Lafayette. Together, the two facilities serve 23 parishes along the Louisiana Gulf Coast -- from the Mississippi border to the Texas state line.

Currently, Second Harvest Food Bank is:

- Working with Feeding America to secure truckloads of water and increase its inventory of non-perishable food items and cleaning supplies,
- Initiating outreach efforts to encourage citizens to pre-apply for Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (DSNAP), formerly called Disaster Food Stamps, in advance of the possible flooding and hurricane season,
- Communicating and planning its outreach with its partner agencies on the front lines of response in the affected communities,
- Connecting with the state and parish leaders and emergency management officials to create awareness about Second Harvest partner agencies who will assist with the food bank’s emergency response efforts, and
- Preparing to deploy Mobile Food Pantries to supplement the work of partner agencies in affected communities in need of assistance.

“Ultimately, the strength of our response depends on the tremendous support we receive from individuals, corporations and foundations throughout south Louisiana,” added Jayroe.

“Donations of time, food and funds are critical to our emergency response efforts.”

Second Harvest will seek volunteers to sort donated food, assemble emergency food boxes and assist with food and water distribution in the affected areas. Donated non-perishable food items are also needed including: canned fruits and vegetables, tuna, soups, stews, chili, beans, rice, pasta, cereals, juices and shelf stable milk among other items. Food donations may be made at either of the Second Harvest Food Bank warehouses (located at 700 Edwards Avenue, New Orleans, LA 70123 in the Elmwood area, or 215 E. Pinhook, Lafayette, LA 70501) or at any Rouses Supermarket.

“Throughout the last six years, south Louisiana has faced numerous challenges. By working collaboratively with state and federal government and other for profits and not for profits, we have emerged stronger and more united as a community and people,” said Jayroe. “We will face this new challenge with the same resolve and determination to ensure that every person affected by this crisis receives the food assistance they need.”

To learn more about Second Harvest Food Bank’s disaster response efforts, volunteer opportunities, or how to make a donation of food or funds call 504.734.1322 (southeast Louisiana) or 337.237.7711 (southwest Louisiana), or visit www.no-hunger.org.

About Second Harvest Food Bank

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 or donate food, money or time, please visit www.no-hunger.org. Fan us on [Facebook](#) or follow us on [Twitter](#).

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