



**Second Harvest Food Bank**  
Greater New Orleans and Acadiana

**Second Harvest Food Bank Commemorates the Fifth Anniversary of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita**

*200 volunteers pack 4,000 emergency food boxes for disaster relief efforts*

*Chase donates state-of-the-art refrigerated truck to help "Drive Out Hunger" in south Louisiana*

New Orleans, LA — Today, Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana commemorated the fifth anniversary of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. More than 200 volunteers, dignitaries and community leaders gathered to reflect on the achievements of the community and Second Harvest Food Bank in the five years following the devastating storms that left thousands in need of emergency food assistance across south Louisiana and beyond.

Chase also announced the donation of a state-of-the-art refrigerated truck to support Second Harvest Food Bank's food distribution across 23 south Louisiana parishes. TLC's Take Home Chef Curtis Stone rallied hundreds of volunteers who packed roughly 4,000 emergency food boxes that will be staged and ready when needed for disaster response efforts by Feeding America food banks.

Immediately following Hurricane Katrina, Second Harvest Food Bank became the largest food bank in history. Operating from a vacant Wal-Mart in Baker, LA and with the help of Feeding America and more than 70 skilled food bank volunteers from all over the country, Second Harvest Food Bank distributed 8 million pounds of food and grocery products, representing a six-fold increase over its pre-Katrina distribution of 1.2 million pounds of food monthly, or 14.5 million pounds annually. By the end of May, 2006, Second Harvest had distributed more than 44 million pounds of food and grocery products.

In the five years since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Second Harvest Food Bank has distributed more than 136,740,000 pounds of food, the equivalent of 105,187,000 meals, across 23 south Louisiana parishes – from the Mississippi border to the Texas state line.

"It was through the amazing spirit, generosity and commitment of many talented people that Second Harvest Food Bank was able to respond quickly to the tragedy, loss and need created by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita," said Natalie Jayroe, president and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana. "From these events, Second Harvest Food Bank was given the opportunity to re-imagine the way we carry out our mission and our role in the renewal of the entire region."

Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger-relief organization, was called on to help feed more than 6.5 million people in response to Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma. The need for emergency food assistance stretched well beyond the Gulf Coast and to states that were sheltering those who had been evacuated as far away as Portland or Boston. Ultimately, Feeding America provided more than 100 million pounds of food and grocery products, the equivalent of 3,000 truckloads of goods, in response to the disasters.

"While few could comprehend the scale of destruction that the Gulf Coast would endure, many people sprang into action to aid in the nation's recovery," said Vicki Escarra, president and CEO of Feeding America. "The outpouring of donations and helping hands from communities across the country to the Gulf Coast was tremendous."

Food insecurity remains high in the areas impacted by the 2005 hurricane season, but the food banks in those areas continue to make considerable gains in the fight against hunger.

Since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana has increased food distribution to more than 19 million meals annually. But the food bank is on a mission to double the number of meals it distributes annually to 38 million meals by 2013.

“As we remember Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, we can’t forget that hunger is an everyday disaster. In communities across south Louisiana, seniors are making difficult choices between buying food and purchasing medicine; parents are going without eating in order to feed their children; and working families are deciding whether to pay for utilities or put food on the table,” said Jayroe. “Our corporate partners, volunteers and donors help us fight hunger not only during times of disaster like hurricanes or even the recent oil spill, but each and every day.”

Today, Chase presented Second Harvest Food Bank with keys to a state-of-the-art refrigerated truck. The donation will help Second Harvest collect food through its retail store initiative and increase food distribution throughout south Louisiana.

“There are far too many hungry families in south Louisiana - and the number is growing,” said John Kallenborn, president of Chase in Louisiana. “This region is very important to Chase. Immediately after Katrina, Chase and our employees donated \$3 million to hurricane relief. Since 2005, Chase has provided more than \$12 million in philanthropic donations in Louisiana. We’re proud to partner with Second Harvest to work together and drive out hunger in our communities.”

Chase announced its donation today as part of a \$5 million national grant to Feeding America and its nationwide network of food banks. This donation marks the largest single corporate donation that Feeding America has received from a corporation to date. Second Harvest Food Bank is a member of the Feeding America network.

Following the announcement, approximately 200 volunteers including Chase, Marriott, UnitedHealthcare, Shell, Junior League of New Orleans, Abbott Labs, the New Orleans Fire Department and others went to work packing disaster food boxes that will be staged and ready for distribution to Feeding America food banks that may be called on to respond to a disaster in the coming year. TLC’s Take Home Chef, Curtis Stone, rallied volunteers who filled more than 4,000 boxes with non-perishable food and personal care items frequently requested by individuals and families after a disaster or incident.

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### **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 corporation 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](http://www.no-hunger.org). Follow us on Twitter at [www.Twitter.com/2ndHarvestGNOA](http://www.Twitter.com/2ndHarvestGNOA) or fan us on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/2ndHarvestGNOA](http://www.Facebook.com/2ndHarvestGNOA).

**About Feeding America**

Feeding America provides low-income individuals and families with the fuel to survive and even thrive. As the nation's leading domestic hunger-relief charity, our network members supply food to more than 37 million Americans each year, including 14 million children and 3 million seniors. Serving the entire United States, more than 200 member food banks support 61,000 agencies that address hunger in all of its forms. For more information on how you can fight hunger in your community and across the country, visit <http://www.feedingamerica.org>. Find us on Facebook at <facebook.com/FeedingAmerica> or follow our news on Twitter at <twitter.com/FeedingAmerica>.

**About Chase**

Chase has 4,400 employees in Louisiana, paying wages of more than \$216 million annually and paying state/municipal taxes of \$25.7 million each year. With 159 branches statewide, Chase serves 1.5 million consumers and more than 50,000 businesses across the state. More information about Chase is available at [www.chase.com](http://www.chase.com).

**Media Contacts:****Second Harvest Food Bank**

Leslie Doles, 504.442.8983, [lsoles@secondharvest.org](mailto:lsoles@secondharvest.org)

Linzy Cotaya, 504.473.6494, [lcotaya@secondharvest.org](mailto:lcotaya@secondharvest.org)

**Feeding America**

Paula Thornton Greear, 321.399.5281, [pgreear@feedingamerica.org](mailto:pgreear@feedingamerica.org)

**Chase**

Greg Hassell, 713-419-9208, [greg.hassell@chase.com](mailto:greg.hassell@chase.com)

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