



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 4, 2010

**PILOT SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM TO PRODUCE 4,000 MEALS IN 40 DAYS  
TO FILL MEAL GAP WHILE CHILDREN ARE OUT OF SCHOOL**

*Second Harvest program partners with five summer camp sites to provide nutritious meals twice a day*

*New Orleans, La.*—Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana will launch a pilot Summer Feeding Program on June 7 which will run through July 30. Producing 4,000 meals a week, the pilot program will address child hunger during the summer months when thousands of children are left undernourished and hungry.

One in five children in Louisiana age 18 and younger is at risk for hunger. Seventy-five percent of households served by Second Harvest Food Bank report children participating in the free and reduced lunch program at school. Only 13 percent of these children participate in a summer meal program.

“Louisiana has one of the highest rates of child food insecurity in the country,” says Natalie Jayroe, President and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank. “The Summer Feeding pilot program is an opportunity for Second Harvest Food Bank to address a critical need in our community and offer nutritious foods where they are needed most.”

The program, made possible through an agreement between USDA, Food and Nutrition Services and the Louisiana State Department of Education and with support from the Emeril Lagasse Foundation, is designed to offer highly nutritious and filling foods that are tasty and kid friendly. In its first year, Second Harvest Food Bank will work with five summer camp sites to provide breakfast and lunch for 400 children each day.

Meals will be prepared by Second Harvest Food Banks’ Director of Culinary Operations, Chef Tony Biggs. Chef Biggs will operate from a temporary kitchen located at Grace Episcopal Church from 5:30AM - 3:00PM, Monday through Friday. Chef Biggs will carefully select daily menu components to meet strict guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to insure that the children are receiving a well balanced diet.

Sample breakfast menu items include: scrambled eggs, pancakes with sausage, French toast with ham, muffins with fruit, or cereal with milk. Sample lunch items include: red beans and baked chicken, lasagna, spaghetti and meat sauce, beef tacos, macaroni and cheese, beef stew, breaded fish, and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. All meals are served with complementary sides of vegetables or fruit, and milk is served with every meal.

“Many of the children who participate in our program would not get two balanced meals at home. For some, these are the only meals they get, which is what draws them to our program,” says Marcia Peterson, Executive Director of Desire Street Ministries.

The participating camps were identified based on need and the criteria of being located in Orleans Parish. The camps participating in the pilot program are:

Site and Address	Operating Days and Dates	Meals and Times Served
Desire Street Ministries 3600 Desire Parkway, New Orleans	June 7- July 30 Monday- Friday	Breakfast: 8:30-9:00AM Lunch: 11:30AM- 12:30PM
North Rampart Community Center 1130 North Rampart Street, New Orleans	June 7- July 30 Monday- Friday	Breakfast: 8:30-9:00AM Lunch 11:30-1:00PM
St. Roch Community Church 1738 St. Roch Avenue, New Orleans	June 14- July 23 Monday- Friday	Lunch: 11:30-12:30PM
Marine and Mt. Mariah Baptist 3034 Andover Street, New Orleans	June 15- July 30 Monday- Friday	Breakfast: 8:30-9:00AM Lunch: 11:30AM- 12:30PM
Grace Episcopal Church 3700 Canal Street, New Orleans	June 15- July 30 Monday- Friday	Breakfast: 8:15-9:00AM Lunch: 11:30-AM- 12:00PM

Meals will be provided to all children without charge. Acceptance and participation requirements for the program and all activities are the same for all regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability, and there will be no discrimination in the course of the meal service. Meals will be provided at the sites and times listed above.

The summer feeding initiative is actively seeking volunteers to help launch the pilot program. Interested volunteers should call 504-729-2849 or email [volunteernow@secondharvest.org](mailto:volunteernow@secondharvest.org).

To learn more visit [www.no-hunger.org](http://www.no-hunger.org) or call Tanya O'Reilly, Programs Manager, 504.729.2842.

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