

NEWS RELEASE

Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana
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A CALL TO ACTION: LOUISIANA FIRST LADY SUPRIYA JINDAL REQUESTS SUPPORT FOR SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF GREATER NEW ORLEANS AND ACADIANA AND HUNGER RELIEF AGENCIES ACROSS SOUTH LOUISIANA

First Lady of the Louisiana National Guard, Mrs. Dolores Landreneau, speaks on Acadiana generosity and support for neighbors in need

Lafayette and New Orleans, LA- September 10, 2008 – Today, First Lady Supriya Jindal toured and held a food drive at the Lafayette warehouse of Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana (215 East Pinhook Road). In effort to promote the strengthening of our communities in south Louisiana, Mrs. Jindal stressed the importance of food banks and their member agencies to disaster relief and recovery, and made a call for citizens to contribute resources and time to community service.

An increase in community service, volunteerism and nonprofit support has become a vital issue in south Louisiana's residents are working to restore their lives in the wake of current events. Many residents dealing with the harsh blow of Gustav are finding themselves without power, food and resources needed to recover and move ahead. Mrs. Jindal called out to citizens to contribute time, food, and money to areas and individuals in need of assistance.

Mrs. Jindal stated, "I am making an urgent plea to the residents of Lafayette to support Second Harvest's efforts in feeding hope in the communities in which we live. Together, we are a resilient force and this food drive is just one step toward strengthen our state and our neighbors."

"Acadiana has always been known for its hospitality and helping our neighbors in need, mentioned First Lady of the Louisiana National Guard, Mrs. Dolores Landreneau. "I'm confident that their generosity will answer the call we have made today."

Prior to Gustav's landfall, Second Harvest maintained communications with local and statewide government offices through its placement of a staff liaison in the Emergency Operations Center, which is the critical information headquarters during disaster operations. In addition, Second Harvest pre-staged trailer loads of food and water at the Convention Center in New Orleans and other sites to prepare for the possible influx of residents in need of emergency food assistance. Since the storm, the food bank and its member agencies have distributed more than 610,000 pounds of food and provided nearly 477,000 meals to affected individuals. Truckloads of donated food and water have gone to member agencies, first responders, American Red Cross, and Salvation Army feeding sites. In Lafayette, Second Harvest has distributed 279,621 pounds

of food to hungry men, women, and children.

“The steps we have taken to impact hunger across south Louisiana during recent events and our year-round operations would have not been made without the assistance of community supporters, the state of Louisiana, United Way and Catholic Charities,” stated Natalie Jayroe, President and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana. “We will continue to be accountable stewards of your generosity and continue to lead the fight against hunger.”

Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana (GNOA) is a member of the America’s Second Harvest National Food Bank Network, Catholic Charities Archdiocese of New Orleans and United Way. Second Harvest provides food to 210 nonprofit and faith-based agencies throughout its 23-parish service territory – from the Mississippi border to the Texas state line. Since Hurrricanes Katrina and Rita, the Food Bank has distributed over 87 million pounds of food and supplies to more than 250,000 people annually, distributing enough food to provide an estimated 63,000 meals each week. The mission of Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana is to lead the fight against hunger in south Louisiana through food distribution, advocacy, education, and disaster response. To donate food, money or time, please visit www.no-hunger.org.

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