



Second Harvest delivers 35,000 meals to N.O., Lafayette

NEW ORLEANS - Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana has distributed more than 35,000 meals and 75,000 bottles of water to residents of south Louisiana, with more on the way, the nonprofit said.

Before Gustav's landfall, Second Harvest pre-staged trailer loads of food and water at sites to prepare for the possible influx of residents in need of emergency food assistance. During the past week, Second Harvest has delivered more than 35,000 meals and 75,000 bottles of water to communities between New Orleans and Lafayette.

New Orleans area food delivery and pickup sites include:

- Two tractor loads of meals ready to eat and water pre-staged at Convention Center with First Responders for distribution;
- Load of MREs and water delivered to Jean Lafitte City Hall;
- Delivered 2,304 MRE meals and 2,592 bottles of water for Dove Charismatic Ministries, 1420 Caffin Ave., (352) 328-6687;
- Delivered 2,880 MRE meals and 4,320 bottles of water to People's Community Organization 400 N. Rampart, New Orleans, 520-0642 for distribution;
- Delivered 2,880 MREs and 7,464 bottles of water to Lafourche Parish government for distribution;
- Delivered MREs, snacks and water to Guste Highrise/Islamic Relief 2132 Simon Bolivar Ave., New Orleans, (985) 649-8905;
- Metairie Manor, picked up 42 cases of food product for distribution;
- Salvation Army picked up 72 cases of food product for distribution;
- Watson Community Center picked up heater meals and water 1300 Myrtle, Metairie, 736-6480;
- Avondale Multipurpose Center picked up a pallet of water 4008 U.S. Hwy. 90, Avondale, 349-5414 for distribution; and
- delivered 4,608 MREs, 13,824 bottles of water, 96 cases of Similac baby formula and snacks to Apotheca in Tangipahoa Parish for distribution.

In addition, Second Harvest today distributed food and water with the following member agencies in New Orleans:

- Larose Baptist Church in Cut Off (Lafourche Parish);

- Eastern Sky Mission in Schriever (Terrebonne Parish);
- Grace Harbor Ministry 29647 Highway 23, Port Sulphur, (318) 607-7133; and
- New Orleans Dream Center.

In addition, Second Harvest has communicated with each of its member agencies that are back on line and ready to provide assistance to the community. The food bank is getting food and water to various Salvation Army locations providing hot meals throughout its territory and is continuing to work across the area to ensure that it can give assistance where it is needed.

"Both our New Orleans and Lafayette warehouses are operating at full capacity and are responding to the existing needs presented by the lack of emergency food sources," stated Natalie Jayroe, president and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank. "Grocery stores in the most affected areas are struggling to come back online and are limited in the type and amount of food they can sell. Residents who have returned to the affected areas and may be able to afford food from available stores are faced with long waiting lines and empty shelves."

"The concern of the state is justified. Many of the goods and services offered by government agencies are being exhausted and Second Harvest is working to ensure that its services are available to all those in need."

Gordon Wadge, co-president and CEO of Catholic Charities, Archdiocese of New Orleans applauded Second Harvest's efforts. "We are tremendously pleased with Second Harvest's response. Catholic Charities is very focused on providing humanitarian aid through this crisis, and Second Harvest is on the front line."

Emergency member agency services are provided at no cost to those in need. While Second Harvest says it would like to accept all individual in-kind donations, logistical and personnel restrictions may hinder accepting all items. Second Harvest is the contracted food bank to more than 200 nonprofit, social service and faith-based organizations in the affected parishes that will ensure individual donations are routed directly to individuals in need.

To make a cash donation, contact Dori Orr at 729-2832 or doriorr@secondharvest.org. To volunteer or make a food donation, contact Ali James, Community Relations Coordinator, 729-2820, or ajames@secondharvest.org.

For emergency food distribution centers, dial 211 from any touch-tone phone, or visit www.310info.org. To volunteer, contact 734-1322.

The food bank is continuing to monitor Hurricane Ike and is maintaining active communications with various governmental agencies and its member agencies to better serve the needs of the community. Each operating member agency is being equipped with supplies to provide emergency food assistance to individuals and families in areas threatened by the storm.●