the house to eat. And I think the hardest part about it was that I had two in diapers, and I had three children. I didn’t qualify for food stamps, and they were to me in a time of need.”

She says he doesn’t know what she would do without the support of the pantry. “When people give, that’s how I have her in my mind. Because my mom tells me, ‘I know they’re good. She has touched my heart in so many ways.’”

A Ministry Born from Experience

Gail Harris grew up in the North Ward of New Orleans and, as a young girl, attended a Catholic school. “I learned there the value of helping others in need,” she said. After graduating high school, she joined the U.S. Navy.

“After getting back on her feet, Miss Gail knew the need now was even greater for others than it was for her then. And, in a short time, she was working in the soup kitchen to help others care for their families following one of the hardest times of their lives. She found that feeding the hungry was something she enjoyed doing, something that made her feel good, and something that she knew was important to many others.”

Harris says she sees “more and more new faces” every week at the soup kitchen, and has discovered many wonderful new friends among Second Harvest’s donors. “We are very blessed, and that’s why we have some days when we don’t have any food left,” she said. “And every day we don’t have food left is a day for dozens of local residents, according to food stamp budgets, to feed their children.”

Join us for Harvest at Home and Duck Derby!

Harvest at Home celebrates its Fifth anniversary this April in New Orleans.

The St. Mary Magdalen Christian Service Center in New Orleans is one of the many food pantries served by Second Harvest Food Bank. Located behind a historic church, the pantry and its staff of five work with hundreds of residents from across Terrebonne Parish and Baton Rouge.

Deacon Hyde: We Have a Lot of People Behind Us

The pantry is growing tremendously,” Deacon Hyde told us. “People find themselves turning to local food pantries. Sometimes they’re not even aware that, you know, a tomato might help someone, and we don’t turn them away.”

FEBRUARY 2014

Second Harvest is leading the fight against hunger in south Louisiana through food distribution, advocacy, education and disaster response. Second Harvest relies on the generosity of individuals, corporations and other organizations to help feed the hungry. To learn more about how you can help, visit www.secondharvest.org.

Deacon Hyde says he has seen the problem surrounding hunger only increase since the three years since he began managing the facility in Terrebonne Parish.

“When I got here, the first year we gave away 450 pounds of food. Last year we gave away 2,000 pounds of food. So, the need is increasing tremendously,” Deacon Hyde told us. “People are facing so many in Vermilion Parish who even thought they would need help now find themselves helping out local food pantries.”

Just before Christmas, we had a group who felt very uncomfortable about coming, because she didn’t feel like she represented the everyday person in need. ‘The lady’s worried about food, and just lost her job,’ the lady remembered some help. ‘We helped the family, and last week, we covered the groceries because her husband found a job to work back.’

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Deacon Hyde says he has seen the problem surrounding hunger only increase since the three years since he began managing the facility in Terrebonne Parish.

“... the first year we'd give away about 60,000 pounds of food. Last year, we gave away 600,000 pounds of food...” Deacon Hyde says. 

Harris says she is “very comfortable now” every week at the soup kitchen, and knows the soup now gives her a chance to be a part of someone’s life. She calls the soup kitchen her ministry, and it has changed her life.

“... and this helps me feel better,” she said. “I don’t think I could get a job if it weren’t for the soup kitchen.” She adds, “I get to help people, it’s a gift.”

Second Harvest relies on the generosity of individuals, corporations and other organizations to help feed the hungry. To learn more about how you can help, visit www.secondharvest.org.
President’s Message: Together We Can Solve Hunger

We are pleased to describe the essence of Second Harvest’s mission and purpose— that hunger is a crisis we can overcome if every individual does their part. It is absolutely essential that we all join forces to tackle this issue, because it is only through collective action that we can make a difference.

In fact, it is because of Second Harvest’s work that we can say that there is a brighter future for those who are hungry. Second Harvest provides 20 million meals annually to 265,000 people, including 83,000 children and 29,000 seniors. To ensure that everyone who needs food assistance has access to nutritious options, we work with local food banks and other organizations to provide food to those in need.

That is why Second Harvest is celebrating 30 years of service. From our humble beginnings in the early 1980s, Second Harvest has grown to become one of the largest hunger relief organizations in the country. Throughout our history, we have continued to innovate and adapt to meet the changing needs of the communities we serve.

Today, Second Harvest is proud to serve 23 parishes in Southwest Louisiana and 1 parishes in Southeast Louisiana, including Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Lafayette, and Monroe. With a network of over 300 partner agencies and direct service sites, Second Harvest is able to reach even the most remote communities.

Thank you for the difference you make in the lives of those who are hungry. Your generosity makes us optimistic that together we can solve hunger.

To learn more about how you can get involved visit www.no-hunger.org

TOGETHER WE CAN SOLVE HUNGER