



The Struggle of Grandparents Raising Grandkids

An unfortunate story we hear far too often from the people we serve: people in their retirement years raising their own grandchildren.

Often, the parents are out of the picture due to a variety of struggles. But some grandparents step in when the parents are stretched far too thin working two or three jobs.

Charlene H. lives in Gretna, and in her younger years helped raise two grandchildren who are now in college. Now, she is retired and on disability, and finds herself doing it again.

“I’m raising two more grandchildren, three and four years old,” she told us. “And I say ‘raise them,’ because their parents work more than one job. And when they finally get home, they’re exhausted and ready to go to sleep.”

She says she’s not alone.

“It’s not just me. Most grandparents I know are taking care of grandkids so their children can work or go to school. I was turned down for SNAP because my grandchildren aren’t technically my dependents, though I do take care of feeding them every day. I wouldn’t need to keep going to the food bank if I could get just a little help.”

Charlene gets help from the Gretna Community Center, where Dr. Clara Byes runs a large food pantry supported by Second Harvest.

“It’s a shame these good folks are called upon later in life, but it’s also a blessing,” Dr. Byes said. “People want to do the right thing for the generations to follow.”

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Second Harvest is leading the fight against hunger in South Louisiana through food distribution, advocacy, education and disaster response



“After the swarm of tornadoes struck in February, we mobilized to provide food, water and disaster supplies to the hardest-hit areas.”

– Director of Programs
Kimberly Krupa

www.no-hunger.org

Tomorrow’s Harvest: Help Fight Hunger for Years to Come

Leaving a legacy helps ensure that Second Harvest can continue to lead the fight against hunger in South Louisiana and provide service to the hungry children, families and seniors who need it most.

You can make a lasting impact by naming Second Harvest as a beneficiary of a will, trust, life insurance policy, or retirement or savings account.

If you have already included Second Harvest in your estate plans, please let us know so we can thank you and include you in our legacy society, Tomorrow’s Harvest.

For more information, please contact Kristen Riegel at 504-729-6351.



Providing Support During this Spring’s Tornadoes and Floods

A core part of our mission for more than 30 years has been responding to local disasters. This has almost always been from the threat of hurricanes in the late summer and early fall, but this spring, two back-to-back natural disasters struck South Louisiana.

“After the swarm of tornadoes struck in February, we mobilized to provide food, water and disaster supplies to the hardest-hit areas,” according to Director of Programs Kimberly Krupa. “The damage and need was especially bad in LaPlace and Reserve, and our staff and volunteers packaged and delivered tens of thousands of pounds of food and supplies.”

Then, barely three weeks later, record flooding across South Louisiana impacted thousands more homes.

Up to 18 inches of rain fell in Washington and Tangipahoa Parishes, and similar rainfall amounts pushed the Sabine River miles out of its banks in Calcasieu Parish a few days later.

In all, we provided assistance to more than 20,000 South Louisiana residents impacted by these disasters, and delivered more than 150,000 pounds of supplies. Bob McCorquodale with Catholic Charities of Southwest Louisiana said the aid delivered to the area was badly needed.

“The scope is hard to believe. I was born and raised in Lake Charles, and we’ve never had a flood quite in this manner. Areas underwater that have never been underwater,” he said.

Less than a month after the

tornadoes, Second Harvest delivered truckload after truckload of supplies to flood victims across the Northshore and in the Lake Charles area, including pre-packed Abbott disaster boxes.

“It’s a miracle you guys are providing. And candidly there is nothing we achieve without Second Harvest giving us the food we need to do the job.”

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CEO's Message: Advocating for Those Without a Voice

A core part of our mission is, and has always been, to advocate for common-sense changes in regulations that impact how we serve South Louisiana residents.

For example, we actively advocate for the passage and expansion of measures such as the federal Child Reauthorization Act, which provides funds to support the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program, WIC, as well as Summer Feeding and after-school supper programs provided by Second Harvest. Though such measures often enjoy bipartisan support, the renewal and strengthening of such legislation often benefit from a "nudge" from advocates and the public.

Thanks to your support, our child Summer Feeding program has expanded to help thousands of kids get much-needed nutrition in summer. However, although we would very much like to be able to provide children and parents at Summer Feeding sites extra food to take home, federal regulations currently prohibit this. We have are currently advocated for changes in the law which will give us the flexibility in the future to serve children who do not have access to these types of summer programs. We hope that you will help us get common-sense legislation passed that could provide meals for thousands of Louisiana children by letting your Congressman know that you support Second Harvest and a strong Child Nutrition Reauthorization Bill.

While we are proud that 75% of Second Harvest's resources comes from private individuals, corporations and foundations, we also partner with government to stretch public resources further. We are in regular conversation with local, state and policy makers to advise them how we can address the issue of hunger most effectively and efficiently. This is how we can make the best possible use of the food, funds and time resources that you donate to us. Thank you!



Sincerely,

Natalie J
Natalie Jayroe, President and CEO

Our Summer Feeding program provides breakfast, lunch and snacks to dozens of churches, local libraries, recreational camps and other community centers where children gather.



Helping Hungry Children Through the Long Summer to Come

Thousands of local students rely on the breakfast and lunch they get at school to get through the day. For many of these children their school meals may be the only nutritious meal of the day.

But during the summer, many of those same children face weeks of malnourishment.

Our Summer Feeding program provides breakfast, lunch and snacks to dozens of local churches, libraries, recreational camps and other community centers where children gather.

"We provide meals to thousands of children a day at the peak of our summer program," according to Second Harvest Community Kitchen Director Gina Melita. "Every meal we prepare meets USDA requirements for healthy standards, and includes items such as whole grain and whole wheat biscuits or rolls, protein, fat-free milk and vegetables."

And providing these meals across our service area is no small task. Volunteers and staff members arrive before 5:00 a.m. throughout the summer to prepare, pack and deliver the meals. By summer's end, we cook and deliver over 100,000 meals to more than 3,500 children.

"Many, many of the summer sites we support tell us there's just no way they could afford to provide breakfast, lunch and snacks to all their kids all summer long. It's an incredibly important program that we're always looking to expand."

Our Child Summer Feeding program is made possible by C&S Wholesale Grocers, the Eugenie and Joseph Jones Family Foundation, the Emeril Lagasse Foundation, Share Our Strength and the Edward Wisner Donation.

Help Today. www.no-hunger.org

More Ways to Help

Carrying on Her Son's Memory

Mary Curtis Washington is one of the thousands of people who donate to our mission every year.

She told us she became active in charitable giving after her son passed away in 2002. "Rather than buy a fur coat, I decided to do something of value. We found that our son had made numerous charitable gifts, and I decided to continue his good works."

As she began researching foundations and nonprofits, her main criteria were charities that provide long-term assistance to communities. "It's important that anyone I donate to has some longevity in what they do. And Second Harvest certainly met that criteria for me."

Mrs. Washington said Second Harvest's low administrative and fundraising overhead were also key in her decision. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, every dollar donated to Second Harvest can provide three meals to a hungry family.

"I thought this might be the most effective thing I could do with my donations," she said.



"Until I visited, I wasn't aware of just how big you are, and all the other things Second Harvest does in addition to providing food, like cooking classes and mobile pantries."

As she enjoys her retirement, Mrs. Washington is more focused than ever on paying it forward.

"I've decided as I get older, I want to concentrate where the most good can be done. And there are many other cities and organizations that could use Second Harvest as a model for how to do things right."

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