

food for thought

February 2018
no-hunger.org

You're helping young people become young women and men

Among the hundreds of community partners supported by your donation to Second Harvest is the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeast Louisiana. This important organization helps shape the future of hundreds of local children, with a goal of keeping them on track to graduate from high school with a plan for the future, demonstrating good character and citizenship, and living a healthy lifestyle.

Will Giannobile is the Director of the Boys & Girls Club in Gretna. "We serve just over 300 children a year, during the school year and across the summer," he says. "All children are welcome in our youth enrichment programs, particularly those most at need."

Second Harvest provides healthy meals and snacks every weekday to the children in the program during the school year with our Kids Café program, and across the summer with our Summer Feeding program.

"The Club teaches the importance of academic success, good citizenship, and healthy lifestyles. The nutritious meals we receive from Second Harvest every day not only provides these students with a great meal or snack, it's also a tool we can use to show them how to live a healthier lifestyle."



Giannobile says the meals, provided at no charge, means his staff can also free up valuable time and money to be able to focus on other areas.

"Our partnership with Second Harvest lets us literally put our money where our mouth is. All of the areas of well-being we focus on are like a domino effect. Many of these kids wouldn't otherwise go home well-fed, and the importance of teaching them what a balanced meal looks like is incredibly important in the long-term."

Encouraging words from Natalie



A time for Reflection and Resolution

As we look forward to the coming of spring, this is the time of year to pause for reflection and think about how best to support our mission in the coming year. Is Second Harvest making an impact on hunger in a way that our South Louisiana community can be proud of? What are the very best ways we can make a difference in the coming year? What do we do to ensure that we steward all of the food and fund resources so generously given to us by the community?

The fact that one out of five of us are not sure where our next meal is coming from is a tragedy. It hits people when they are most vulnerable: the very old and young, the ill, disaster victims, the unemployed. And, thank God, we have enough nutritious food in this country so that we can ensure that no one in crisis should go hungry. It's our job to make sure that food finds its way to these families.

So much of Second Harvest's anti-hunger work now focuses on how we can help build strong communities that can break the cycle of poverty and hunger permanently. We can multiply our impact if we make nutritious food available in schools, hospitals, community centers and other local organizations. We initiate programs like backpack, school pantry, mobile pantry, hospital pantries, and nutrition education to improve lives with the incredible abundance of excess nutritious food in our country. We evaluate all the food that comes into our facility with a goal of increasing its nutritional value. We alleviate hunger today while helping the community to find long-term solutions to hunger.

We spend a lot of time and resources advocating about the many root causes of hunger, including poverty, inadequate access to quality education and health care, and low wages. We continuously evaluate our programs to ensure that we can have the greatest long-term impact, while trying to ensure that the person who has just been affected by a hurricane, illness, the loss of a job, etc. does not have to worry.



And what makes our work possible is the incredible support of food donors, corporations, foundations, volunteers... people like you that cross every strata of our society. Personally, I look forward to the day that our work means South Louisiana no longer needs an additional 70 million meals annually to fill this meal gap. Thank you for your trust and support, and it is a privilege to serve you.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Natalie J".

Natalie Jayroe
President and CEO
Second Harvest Food Bank

Miss Sonia thanks you for your support

Sixty-nine year-old Sonia Cyr has been coming to the Broadmoor Community Center for a little more than a year. It's one of the hundreds of community partners supported by Second Harvest. Miss Sonia, as she likes to be called, has been in a wheelchair since before Hurricane Katrina, when she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

"I had known about the Broadmoor program since it started, but I felt like, 'well, I really don't need to go,' I can take care of me. But one day I found myself without even any fruit, or anything in the cabinet, and I came in."

Because of your support, she not only receives fresh produce and other nutritious food, she volunteers twice a week to help others at the center as well.

"I still can get around pretty well," she laughed. "It's a blessing.

When her illness hit, Miss Sonia was forced to retire from her job as a social worker and community organizer. She is one of the countless people who have told us they never thought they'd find themselves in such a situation, where they are faced with choosing between food and medicine.

"Even people I know without disabilities face that as well," she said, "So I don't consider myself so unusual in that. The things they have here like the oatmeal and vegetables and protein bars are wonderful, because I can't cook like I used to."

Miss Sonia says you can't tell a person is hungry just by looking at them.



"A lot of them are people who work every day and who do what they have to do to survive. Everybody who is homeless doesn't look downtrodden and dirty, because they're not. That's something important I've learned here."



TOMORROW'S HARVEST: Help fight hunger for years to come

Legacy gifts ensure that Second Harvest can continue to lead the fight against hunger and provide assistance to the 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 Heather Sweeney, Director of Development, at hsweeney@secondharvest.org or at 504-729-2839.



MLK DAY OF SERVICE: Volunteers Make a Big Impact

On MLK Day in January, we were honored to have more than 150 volunteers fill our facility for a day of service. Joined by our staff, these wonderful folks sorted food donations, prepared meals in our Community Kitchen, and worked on much-needed maintenance projects in our warehouse.

Among the groups who joined us this year were Ayelet Tours WRT, Capital One, Catholic Charities S.E.R.V.E., GNO First Class Petty Officer Association, GreenPoint Engineering, Habitat AmeriCorps, and many families and individuals.

Our deepest thanks to these MLK Day volunteers, and to all those who make our mission possible. For more information about how you, your family, business, church or other organization can volunteer, please visit no-hunger.org/volunteer.

"This is such a wonderful annual event," said Community Outreach Supervisor Crystal Harris. "And throughout the year, more than 9,000 individual volunteers are the equivalent of 29 full-time employees."

Second Harvest Year in Review

Distributed **34 million** meals last year

\$1 = 4 meals. With every \$1 donated, we can distribute enough food for 4 complete meals.

700+ community partner agencies distribute food across 23 parishes

97% of funds raised goes to programs & services

Served 9,500 kids through Kids Café and Summer Feeding

9,000 volunteers = 29 full-time staff members

(*For fiscal year 2017)



Second Harvest works in partnership with:



contact us

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To learn more or to make a donation to Second Harvest Food Bank visit www.no-hunger.org

