



food for thought

November 2017
no-hunger.org

Thanks to you Second Harvest is Ready to Respond

Once again, Second Harvest staff and volunteers sprang into action to help victims of a major natural disaster. As Hurricane Harvey bore down the Louisiana/Texas border, our team members were preparing to respond well before the first of the flooding rains began to fall.

“Our disaster-response plan is maintained year-round, but we are especially vigilant during hurricane season,” according to Chief Operating Officer John Djurgot. “Once the impact upon our neighbors in Southwest Louisiana and Texas was clear, we began collecting and distributing food, water, and disaster supplies right away, and it will continue as long as needed.”

In addition to many homes in Southwest Louisiana remaining under water for more than two weeks, thousands of Texas evacuees filled shelters and hotel rooms across several parishes, people who had fled their homes with little more than the clothes they wore. At the time this newsletter went to press, Second Harvest had collected and distributed nearly 400,000 pounds of disaster supplies, in addition to cooking



thousands of meals in our Community Kitchen for evacuees and first responders.

“For disaster response, Second Harvest is in our communities before, during, and well after a storm passes,” Djurgot said. “Going back to February 2016, we’ve responded to three major flooding events and two tornado outbreaks. Our relationships with hundreds of community partner organizations across 23 parishes makes for a very efficient way to get the help to where it is needed most, as fast as possible.”

Disaster Story continued

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The Christian Life Church in Vinton, Louisiana, is one of those year-round partners who helped to distribute the much-needed meals and supplies to flood victims.

"We housed flood victims in our church and distributed supplies to Texas victims in hotels across Southwest Louisiana, as well as across the state line to storm victims and first responders," said Pastor Don Snider. "We simply could not have helped these Harvey victims without the support of Second Harvest. Thank you and may God bless everyone who supported Second Harvest during this crisis."



Why a monetary donation is the most effective way to help

We're often asked, which is better to donate: Money, or food?

While we do need both to support our mission, a monetary donation is the best way to support our fight against hunger.

Every dollar donated means we can provide three meals to a family in need. While we are so proud of the thousands of volunteers that help in our Community Kitchen and warehouse, the operating expenses of a 200,000 square-foot facility are considerable. Our trucks log thousands of miles every week delivering food to hundreds of partner agencies across 23 parishes. And just keeping the lights on is a big bill, especially with 40,000 square feet of freezer and cooler space.

We are absolutely grateful for every donation, whether food or funds, and we promise to continue to carefully steward your donations so they are used in the most efficient way possible.

Encouraging words from Natalie



The holidays are a poignant time for most of us. We recall the rituals of our childhood and the family members who shared these memories. And we share these traditions with the next generation – our own children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

As the summer heat gives way to the morning chill and the air loses its humidity, we look to the maintenance of the spirit and those rituals that define the passing of

time. Thanksgiving offers us more than simply the opportunity to give thanks. It offers the chance to protect our sacred memories – of childhood, of family, of gatherings and departures, of service to others less fortunate, and a window to our best selves.

Like many of our generation, I recall holiday seasons when my parents would take me to our local food pantry, where we'd help stock shelves and distribute food baskets. We'd donate our time and our money as an investment in others.

I'm sure my parents also saw this ritual as an investment in me. Years later, I've devoted my life to this work. And now my giving of thanks is a ritual I cherish. Because every day I see the profound generosity and selfless giving of our community. I see it in the support you offer us. I see it in the faces of our volunteers. And I see it in clients who are trying to provide the same holiday rituals to their families – their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

So this Thanksgiving, as we all sit down together at our harvest tables, please accept my deepest thanks to you and your family. Know that your giving makes it possible for other mothers and fathers to give the gift of a holiday memory to their children.

Gratefully,

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

Natalie Jayroe
President and CEO
Second Harvest Food Bank



Partnering to provide meals for seniors this holiday season

Seniors represent 25% of the people served by Second Harvest. Figuring out how best to serve them is a priority year-round, and especially during the holidays. That's why we are so grateful for your support, and for the support of generous partners like Peoples Health.

Every week, thousands of South Louisiana seniors visit food pantries supported by Second Harvest. And those numbers continue to grow.

"It is such a shame that in a state so well-known for our food, many of our seniors continue to have to choose between nutrition, bills, and medicine," said Second Harvest Chief Impact Officer Melanie McGuire. "A recent report from Feeding America shows Louisiana leads the nation in hunger among the elderly, with nearly one in four seniors facing the threat of hunger in our state."

In addition to their year-round support of our mission to fight hunger, Peoples Health also makes our holiday season Senior Meal Campaign possible. Thanks to this program, thousands of Thanksgiving and Christmas meals will be delivered to senior centers across

South Louisiana and served up by Peoples Health volunteers.

"So many of these seniors have worked their whole lives and now are barely getting by on a limited income," said McGuire. "And we hear the stories almost every day of grandparents having to unexpectedly raise grandchildren, putting an additional burden on already limited household resources."

In total, Second Harvest provides help to nearly 25,000 senior citizens every month across South Louisiana.

"We are so thankful for the continued partnership with Peoples Health," said Natalie Jayroe, President and CEO of Second Harvest. "We're so honored to partner with Peoples Health to provide nutritious meals, both during the holidays and year-round, for seniors right here in South Louisiana."



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—MELANIE MCGUIRE



Harvey victim: Donald Pinkney

At the Christian Life Church in Vinton, 23 miles east of Lake Charles, Church member Donald Pinkney is a retired veteran who spent years in Vietnam. He receives help from the Church's food pantry every month, and was forced out of his home due to Hurricane Harvey.

"I live on the river near here," Pinkney told us. "My house is raised, and we didn't flood from the rain right away, but after they opened up the Toledo Bend Reservoir, it was time for us to go."

Pinkney said he hadn't yet finished rebuilding from the floods of 2016 that hit Calcasieu Parish when this latest flooding forced him out of his home for weeks to come.

"I don't know what I'm going to do. We do appreciate everything that has been donated. There's plenty of people who can use it. It's a Godsend."

A Sainly partnership to fight hunger

Our fight to defeat hunger in South Louisiana is made possible by thousands of supporters, businesses, and organizations like the New Orleans Saints.

"I have personally seen the impact of Second Harvest in our communities and how dedicated their staff and volunteers are," said Elicia Broussard, New Orleans Saints Director of Community Affairs. "We're so proud to be a part of their mission."

Once again this year, the Saints and Second Harvest partnered to present a 50/50 raffle at each home game in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. Proceeds from each game's raffle benefit several local charities, including Second Harvest.

Following local disasters like the August 2016 floods and the New Orleans East tornado, Saints and Pelicans staff used their Airline Drive facility as a collection destination for disaster donations, collecting tens of



thousands of pounds of food, water, and supplies.

And earlier this year, Saints Quarterback Drew Brees presented a \$40,000 donation to Second Harvest on behalf of the Brees Dream Foundation and the Dunkin' Donuts Joy in Childhood Foundation.

"We all saw the work of Second Harvest following Katrina, and I've seen the impact they've had since then," Brees said. "I'm so glad to be able to support what they do."

Our deepest thanks go out to Mr. and Mrs. Benson, Drew, and the entire organizations of the Saints and Pelicans for their continuing support.

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.

Please contact Heather Sweeney, Director of Development at hsweeney@secondharvest.org or at 504-729-2839.

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Second Harvest works in partnership with:



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

