

SEPTEMBER 2021

# food for thought



A test of  
**OUR  
STRENGTH**



 **SECOND  
HARVEST  
FOOD BANK**  
FEEDING SOUTH LOUISIANA

A MINISTRY OF  
ARCHDIOCESE OF  
**NEW ORLEANS**

FEEDING  
AMERICA



[no-hunger.org](http://no-hunger.org)

## A message *From Natalie* | Behind the scenes of our disaster readiness



We are in the peak of yet another Atlantic Hurricane season and our team is standing by to respond to any impact a named storm may bring to our communities. You often see our staff and volunteers in the news as they work to help local residents after a disaster. But, what most people don't see is the year-round preparation and

practice that is the foundation of Second Harvest's ability to immediately take action when disaster strikes.

**It starts with a plan:** We maintain a detailed written disaster response plan, mapping out the personnel, duties, assets, and checklists critical to a successful effort. This plan is re-assessed after every hurricane season and after every other emergency response to better prepare for "the next one," especially the unexpected emergencies to come. Pandemics have been included in our disaster planning, so while COVID-19 was unexpected, Second Harvest staff was prepared to respond effectively.

**A lot of supplies, and not just food:** Our year-round readiness includes very large quantities of non-perishable food items to use at a moment's notice. But we also encourage donations of other items specifically geared for natural disasters and other emergencies:

- **Bottled water:** We can store a lot of cases in our 200,000 square-foot facility
- **Cleaning supplies:** Bleach, brooms, gloves, masks — everything needed to muck out homes hit by flooding and debris

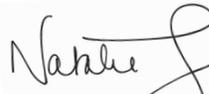
- **Pre-packed disaster boxes:** 1,000+ Abbott boxes filled with Pedialyte, Ensure, Pediasure, and Zone nutrition bars on hand in both our Jefferson Parish and Lafayette facilities
- **Hygiene products:** Baby and adult diapers, soap, shampoo, dental care, feminine products, toilet paper, etc.

**Communication:** We stay in touch with local, parish, and state emergency managers year-round, keeping the channels of communication open for when the worst hits.

**Power:** Our main facility is supported by three massive generators capable of keeping the lights, communications, and 40,000 square feet of freezer/cooler space running for days, with pre-staged fuel support standing by.

**Technology:** We live in a digital world, and our ability to share information with our disaster partners is vital. Second Harvest has invested in backup telecommunications systems and gear to be able to keep working when traditional systems fail.

Every emergency response is different, and it's the deep experience and flexibility of our team that makes it possible to roll as soon as it is safe to do so. Your donations are critical for Second Harvest to respond and reach so many people in times of crisis. We are incredibly grateful for your generous support.

  
Natalie Jayroe  
President & CEO



## *Second Harvest* is bringing Mobile Markets to food deserts

Quite often, working families have to travel miles to find the nearest grocery store. Too many of our communities are "food deserts," served only by fast-food restaurants and convenience stores.

Thanks to the generous support of the Humana Foundation and Humana, Inc., Second Harvest recently launched the Makin' Groceries Mobile Market, a grocery store on wheels to bring affordable fresh food to people living in food deserts in Acadiana. Mobile Market Manager Kristen Wesley says some residents have few or no options to buy healthier food for their families.

"We do have food pantries in these neighborhoods, but that doesn't solve the entire problem of hunger," Wesley says. "People simply want the option to buy fresh produce and nutritious items. The Mobile Market makes this happen."

Humana's support means the Mobile Market can provide fruits, vegetables, and other items at a very low cost to family shoppers, rotating regularly at various locations across Acadiana. The Market accepts SNAP (food stamps), debit/credit cards, and cash.

"When we first rolled up, people were so happy to just be able to buy fresh lettuce, fresh bananas," Wesley said. "It was truly emotional for some at first. They did have some money and resources to buy better food, but it just was not available anywhere near where they live. Now they can, and it's making a difference."



## Thank You for Making a Difference at Area Food Pantries



The Broadmoor Food Pantry is one of the hundreds of pantries supported by Second Harvest Food Bank. Every week, one of our trucks delivers food to help neighborhood residents in need.

"We wouldn't be able to do what we do without Second Harvest," said Pantry Coordinator Loren Brody. "It's been such a great relationship over the years, and people are so generous."

When Ochsner Health System was looking for more opportunities to distribute COVID-19 vaccines, Second Harvest staff connected them with partners like the Broadmoor Food Pantry. "The Ochsner Mobile Vaccination Van is available for those wanting the shot, and we also offer screening for HIV, hepatitis, and high blood pressure," Brody said. "So many of our regulars just don't have access to primary care like they should."

The Broadmoor food pantry is just one food distribution site among many that Second Harvest is connecting with healthcare providers. Making COVID-19 vaccinations more accessible is critical, especially while we are facing the latest surge in cases and the more contagious delta variant.

Seventy-eight-year-old Sonja receives food from the Broadmoor Food Pantry, while also giving back as a volunteer. She has a quick smile and loves to inspire others.

"Multiple sclerosis mostly keeps me in this motor chair, but I love being here at the food pantry and helping out where I can. I speak Spanish and help with translating when they need it," she told us. "Sometimes people just need someone to talk to, to let them know it's ok to ask for help."

The Broadmoor Food Pantry has been a Second Harvest agency since 2013; over the last eight years, your support has helped us deliver nearly half a million pounds of food to this single location.

Miss Sonja passes along her thanks: "We're so blessed to receive this every month; it lets us know someone is thinking of us."

## After a long school day, *Kids Cafe* meals help children most at risk

Our after-school Kids Cafe program provides free hot meals and snacks to thousands of children who gather at places like community centers, libraries, and churches — a safe environment where they can do school work until their parents get off work.

Sarah Jane Lowery, Director of the Gretna Boys & Girls Club, says these after-school meals are hugely impactful for children from poorer homes.

"We feel so lucky to get the Second Harvest meals during Summer Feeding and now during the school year as well," Lowery said. "Most of these children come from working families, with parents holding more than one job at times. Being able to offer these free meals to them is a big deal. It may not seem like a lot to some, but the costs of meals really add up for struggling families."

Alison Green is a single mother who is grateful for the meals her two boys receive at the Gretna Boys & Girls Club. "The food is so nutritious and it's a blessing to know we can save up a little extra money because of these meals."

Director Lowery says children simply can't focus on an empty stomach. "I can see the immediate change in a child once they get something to eat. If not for these Kids Cafe meals, many of them would not eat anything from lunchtime until the evening."

**The Second Harvest Kids Cafe is only possible thanks to the generous support of donors like you. Thank you so much.**



# Year after year, Jules helps feed thousands

Jules recently celebrated his 10th year volunteering with Second Harvest, giving more than 2,000 hours of his time to helping others.

"It's hard to believe it's really been 10 years," he said. "I was here when the food bank moved into this building, and everything has really grown every year."

Jules, a Vietnam veteran, retired in 2010 from a long career serving others with the Department of Veterans Affairs. He joins us every Tuesday in our 6,500

square-foot Community Kitchen, helping to prepare hot meals for seniors and children. On his 10th anniversary, he was surprised to learn he had personally helped make possible more than 1.5 million meals over his decade of service.

**"I'm just so thankful to be able to give back after all I've been given."**

Please visit [no-hunger.org/volunteer](http://no-hunger.org/volunteer) to learn how you can make a difference by volunteering at Second Harvest.



## 2021 DUCK DERBY

\$5,000 GRAND PRIZE



SATURDAY, SEPT. 18

\$5,000 GRAND PRIZE

- 2nd Prize: \$1,000 Gift Certificate to Zuppardo's Family Market
- 3rd Prize: Rasing Cane's for a Year
- 4th Prize: Bicycle World - Manhattan Aero Cruiser
- 5th Prize: Creole Cuisine Restaurant Concepts - \$250 Gift Card
- 6th Prize: Delta World Tire - \$250 Gift Card
- 7th Prize: Honey Baked Ham - \$250 Gift Card
- 8th Prize: Main Squeeze Juice Co. - Gift Basket
- 9th Prize: Port Orleans - Beer for a Year & Private Party
- 10th Prize: The Red M Studio - Photography Session & Wall Portrait
- 11th Prize: Rich's Wash Dat - \$250 Gift Card
- 12th Prize: Theo's Pizza for a Year

LAST CHANCE TO BUY YOUR DUCKS!  
VISIT [NO-HUNGER.ORG](http://NO-HUNGER.ORG)













## A Tax-Saving Way to Help Second Harvest Food Bank

If you're 70 1/2 years or older, giving through your retirement account is an easy way to support your favorite charity, like Second Harvest. And for individuals 72 or older, your gift can satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution (RMD). RMDs were waived in 2020 in the CARES Act, but they are back in 2021. All you need from Second Harvest is our tax ID number (72-0956468). Please consult with your tax or financial advisor for guidance.

**SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK**  
FEEDING SOUTH LOUISIANA



contact us

700 Edwards Ave  
New Orleans, LA 70123-3121  
504.734.1322

To learn more or to make a donation to Second Harvest Food Bank visit [www.no-hunger.org](http://www.no-hunger.org)

