

## "They Truly Make My Day"

As the sun rises, the Magnolia Community Services team arrives at Second Harvest with beaming smiles and excitement bubbling within them. For some, it's just another Wednesday. However, for Eddie Green, Second Harvest's Community Outreach Coordinator, and Magnolia Community Services, it's their favorite day of the week.

Magnolia Community Services, a nonprofit organization in our Harahan facility's backyard, supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities and provides opportunities for growth, independence, and meaningful experiences. One of Magnolia's most cherished endeavors has been its unwavering dedication to volunteering at Second Harvest.

Every week, the group arrives rain or shine — each with unique abilities, clad in their branded T-shirts, ready to form teams of joy and determination. Whether preparing meals in the kitchen or sorting food donations in the repack center, the group displays their incredible work ethic and passion for helping others.

"Without question, Magnolia has a special place in my heart and they are my favorite volunteer group," says Eddie Green.

"They truly make my day when they arrive, and their passion for supporting the organization and the community has been nonstop and inspiring, to say the least."



Our employees have come to affectionately welcome the Magnolia volunteers as part of our extended work family. In April, we honored Magnolia Community Services for their weekly commitment at our annual Volunteer Awards Ceremony. The excitement from the group filled the room as they enthusiastically accepted the award.

**Magnolia Community Services' story and commitment to volunteering at Second Harvest is a testament to the transformative power of compassion, dedication, and the belief that everyone has something meaningful to contribute.**

NOVEMBER 2023

# food for thought

## GIVING THANKS

Neighbors are grateful for your support, but don't take our word for it!

See story on Page 3.



**\$1 CAN  
HELP  
PROVIDE  
3 MEALS!**

## How To Make an Even Bigger Impact

**You can provide meals today ... and hope for tomorrow.**

Tomorrow's Harvest Society celebrates supporters who are committed to leading the fight against hunger in South Louisiana. When you join the Tomorrow's Harvest Society, you impact the future of Second Harvest by including us in your legacy giving plans. By thoughtfully

arranging your gift now, you are ensuring a tomorrow that sees fewer neighbors with food insecurity. Interested in making a planned gift to Second Harvest or learning more about your options? Contact Heather Sweeney at 504-729-2839 or [hsweeney@secondharvest.org](mailto:hsweeney@secondharvest.org).

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



**A Time  
for Hope**



**SECOND  
HARVEST  
FOOD BANK**  
FEEDING SOUTH LOUISIANA



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



## A Message From Natalie



Food brings us together, especially during the holidays. My favorite Thanksgivings were the ones where our family — parents, children, and grandparents — gathered around the table and reflected on how fortunate we were to have that opportunity to be together and to have enough good food to eat. There were also

times when we weren't sure where our Thanksgiving dinner was going to come from. We were fortunate that people helped us, and I'm grateful to be in a place where I see people helping each other all the time.

With the holiday season finally here, I find myself thinking a lot about what I'm thankful for. Most of all, I'm thankful for you.

The holidays can be an especially hard time for families who need a little extra help to put enough nutritious food on the table. No one should go hungry at any time of year, but somehow it seems to hurt more during the holidays.

But thanks to your support, Second Harvest Food Bank can help families, children, and seniors who are trying to make ends meet. Your help also comes at a time when the high costs of food, utilities, and other essentials are

still straining household budgets. Because of friends like you who support Second Harvest, families in our community don't have to worry about how they'll put food on the table this holiday season — or any time of year! Please read through this edition of *Food for Thought* and see the difference you're making. Then, I hope you'll consider a special holiday gift to help even more neighbors in need.

Thank you!

Natalie Jayroe  
President & CEO

### SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER 28

GivingTuesday #iGiveCatholic Day:  
**no-hunger.org/igivecatholic**

You can support Second Harvest on this national day of giving.



#IGIVECATHOLIC

## Fighting Two Battles How you're helping this mom fight cancer and food insecurity.

Cindy never imagined she'd need help. But her life completely changed when she was diagnosed with stage 4 lymphoma, a rare blood cancer, in 2018. Suddenly, she had to leave her 36-year career in accounting to focus on treatment. In a snap, Cindy went from a steady income to no income at all. And now that her son is all grown up, she lives alone. She receives disability benefits, but they just don't stretch far enough to cover the cost of treatment, rent, groceries, and other expenses throughout the month. She's often forced to choose between paying off medical bills or buying everyday essentials.

"I'm managing as best I can," Cindy told us. Thankfully, friends like you stepped in and offered a helping hand.

Cindy used to donate to the Kenner Food Bank, a Second Harvest partner food pantry, and she volunteered there with her son. She knew how much Second Harvest helped neighbors facing hunger — and now that she needs help, Cindy is witnessing firsthand how meaningful a donation can be.

"The help from Second Harvest keeps me from having to buy so much," she says. "I can make my money last longer because of it."



Second Harvest also has a unique program at several hospitals for neighbors like Cindy who are battling cancer. This program ensures they have access to healthier food options that help them feel energized and have an easier time facing treatment. Each month, Cindy gets a box of fresh food from our therapeutic food pantry located in the cancer clinic.

**Cindy knows the impact of your support. "It's well worth it. It's rewarding to help, and it means so much to those of us who receive it." Thank you for all you do for our neighbors facing hunger!**

## In Their Own Words

**The folks in our community are grateful for your support. But don't just take our word for it — hear it from our neighbors firsthand!**

"Thank you for touching hearts and filling bellies all year long." — Amy

"It was a blessing to receive food from Second Harvest. I am totally disabled and my wife has major health issues. You are angels to dedicate your time and funds." — Gogi

"Food is one of the most basic necessities and y'all make sure to keep those in need in South Louisiana eating good and healthy! You are so appreciated!" — Zoe

"The work and the love that Second Harvest brings to Louisiana is immeasurable! So many families are touched and blessed to have some security when times get tough. Second Harvest is the one thing they can count on to help see them through those tough times. Thank you, thank you, thank you!" — Jeff



## When Every Penny Counts

**How this mom of four can keep providing nutritious meals for her family of six — even on a tight budget!**

Being a supermom is a full-time job for Kelly. Originally from Kenner, Kelly and her husband moved to New Iberia a decade ago to be closer to family while raising their kids.

Kelly is a stay-at-home mom to four children and a pet rabbit named Jack. She homeschools the kids, all under the age of 13, and cooks three meals a day.

Living on a tight budget, Kelly turns to couponing to make ends meet. But inflation has made it more difficult to buy what she needs.

That is, until the Makin' Groceries Mobile Market came to town. The Mobile Market is a small grocery store on wheels that brings affordable produce and staples to communities in need of better access to food.

Kelly's first shopping experience filled her with relief. The Mobile Market is now her go-to destination for groceries. Each time, one of her kids tags along as she stocks up on fruit and vegetables, including the family's favorite — avocados!

The family agrees that the Mobile Market has the best apples in town, and Kelly will often hear, "Mom, why didn't you buy more apples? They're so good!"

For Kelly, every penny counts, and without the Mobile Market, cooking healthy meals would be a struggle. Thanks to the Mobile Market, Kelly saves money and creates new recipes with her kids.

**So, when you think about the Mobile Market, know that it's much more than a grocery run — it's a vital resource that nourishes thousands of families like Kelly's. Kelly says it is a true blessing and a lifeline.**



**Friends like Kelly need a little extra help to get by. That's why she's so grateful for your support.**