

Building a Brighter Future
You're helping Albert provide a strong start for his nephew.

Albert is known as someone who loves to lend a helping hand. Now retired and living in Broussard, Louisiana, he's always willing to pitch in — and always happy to help care for children because he believes they are our future.

But one day life threw Albert a curveball, and he found himself raising his young nephew, 8-year-old Joshua. He says it was a challenge, especially in the summer, because affordable child care is hard to find. And Joshua is an active, growing boy who is always hungry and looking for something to eat!

Albert was determined to give Joshua all the love and support he needed, but he knew he couldn't do it alone. That's when Albert turned to Second Harvest Food Bank.

"It doesn't matter how much or how little someone may have, it's what you need at that time," Albert says. "Sometimes people can have a million dollars, or just be down on their luck and need an extra hand. Second Harvest is that extra hand."

Soon, Albert was receiving food for himself and his nephew. He was so inspired by the support available through Second Harvest, that he now brings along other people who need food assistance. He knows Second Harvest provides more than just food. We also provide hope.



Albert and his nephew are grateful for the nutritious food you help provide.

"Second Harvest should be called First Harvest because you guys are all over the community, and you do so much for so many people. You guys are my first call when I need help feeding myself and my family," he says.

This summer, Albert says he looks forward to enrolling Joshua in a summer program that provides him with meals and a chance to play the sports he loves.

Albert strongly believes that by helping others, we are building a better and brighter future for all. With help from generous friends like you, Second Harvest is helping him achieve that mission with every meal we provide.

MAY 2024

food for thought



HELPING LOCAL GRANDFAMILIES
 Thank you for providing food for families like Louie's.
 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@no-hunger.org.



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.

Second Harvest's email addresses have changed from @secondharvest.org to @no-hunger.org. For questions about donations, contact us at givetoday@no-hunger.org.

A Time for Hope



no-hunger.org

A Message From Natalie



As spring turns to summer, many of us — and our children — start to think about summer vacations, swimming pools, grilling out, and travel. It's a great time to take a break from the routines of the school year.

It's a great break, that is, unless you have children who rely on accessing free meals at school. Many families are trying to figure out how to provide enough food for their children during the months those free breakfasts and lunches are no longer available. And during the summer break, families often need to pay for child care costs too.

That's why this issue of *Food for Thought* features children and the people who are working to help them. We're addressing summer hunger — and how supporters like you are rising to the challenge.

Of course, summer hunger affects more than just children. For many people in South Louisiana, food insecurity is a year-round issue. In fact, recent census data shows that the poverty rate is up dramatically, including DOUBLE for children, which means the problem is bigger than it's been in a long time.

But thanks to your kindness, we're up to the challenge ... because YOU always rise to the occasion. And for that, I'm grateful.

Remember, as always, every \$1 can help provide 3 meals for families and neighbors. Thank you for your generosity and compassion.

Thank you!

Natalie Jayroe
President & CEO



Never Too Young To Make a Difference

This teenage volunteer understands the life-changing support Second Harvest provides

Madelyn was only 13 years old when the devastating effects of Hurricane Ida struck her family. Gasoline was scarce during that time, and they could not make regular trips to the store to purchase food. Her family found themselves in a deep struggle with food insecurity.

Having lived in Louisiana all her life, she's weathered her fair share of storms, but none as destructive as Hurricane Ida. To make matters worse, Madelyn's housing situation deteriorated, and her family had to move into a camper.

Thankfully, they found solace when Second Harvest Food Bank stepped in and provided them with necessary food assistance. Groceries such as beans, canned vegetables, rice, and other nonperishable items helped stretch their budget and allowed them some breathing room while they put their lives back together again — even if it meant eating many repeated meals throughout the week before their situation improved.

Eventually, things got better, but Madelyn is still dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Ida. She can't forget those initial moments of desperation when her family was completely reliant on outside help to survive.

Madelyn says receiving assistance was both humbling and empowering. She felt grateful for the help, and empowered knowing that she could also lend a hand. And sure enough, now at age 15, she's volunteering at Second Harvest to help feed other families in need!

For Madelyn, it's life-changing knowing that she can give comfort to others in similar circumstances. It also reminds her that she isn't alone and that no matter how tough it gets, you can still make a difference!



Madelyn loves giving back to a community that was there for her.

If you're interested in joining Second Harvest's team of volunteers, please visit no-hunger.org/volunteer for more information or to sign up!

Helping South Louisiana Grandfamilies in Need

Louie is a retired welder from Morgan City. But retirement isn't quite what he had expected. At the age of 67, Louie has found himself caring for his three grandkids on his own. Living on a fixed income and providing consistent meals for his family is a big challenge.

Louie's oldest granddaughter is full of potential and hopes to secure a scholarship to pursue her college dreams. Meanwhile, the youngest granddaughter, only 14 years old, requires more of Louie's unwavering support. Due to their parents' struggles, Louie had to step in and become the sole guardian of his grandchildren. It's a tough job, and putting food on the table constantly worries him.

Louie isn't alone. This is a nationwide trend, and a situation we see often at food pantries. Nearly 3 million children in America are being raised by their grandparents. These "grandfamilies" face food insecurity at twice the national rate. And the unexpected cost of raising kids during retirement years causes a strain on finances and mental health.

Despite the hardships, Louie remains resilient and determined to provide for his family. We met Louie at a food distribution organized by Second Harvest in Morgan City. While he waited in line, he shared the heartbreaking truth that without this support, he and his grandchildren would go hungry.



Your gifts help grandfamilies like Louie's, and he couldn't be more grateful.

The gratitude in Louie's eyes as he hugged one of our team members, who is from his hometown, was overwhelming. He expressed his deep appreciation to all those who made this lifeline possible. This heartwarming story reminds us of the power of community and the importance of lending a helping hand.

Through the generosity of donors like you, Second Harvest is able to address food insecurity among families and grandfamilies in South Louisiana. We're so thankful for you!

Fueling Summer Fun Summer Feeding Programs provide meals and snacks while school is out

Most people think about donating to food banks around Thanksgiving and during the winter holidays. But hunger is a year-round problem — and it doesn't take a break during the summer.

In fact, we see an increase in food insecurity every summer because when school is out for break, children no longer have access to free school meals.

But thanks to your support and the federal Summer Food Service Program, we can provide free breakfast, lunch, and snacks to children enrolled in youth programs across South Louisiana.

You help children like Ariel, a first grader who goes to summer camp at Trinity Community Center (TCC), a Second Harvest Summer Feeding partner site in New Orleans' Hollygrove neighborhood.

When we saw Ariel, she was joining her fellow campers for lunch in the community room and enjoying musical entertainment from the camp director. Salisbury steak,

mashed potatoes, corn, and a whole-wheat roll were on the menu.

Nutritious lunches fuel the kids for an afternoon of racing around and playing outside, or for outings and field trips that are planned to keep campers entertained throughout the summer.

Second Harvest will start its 2024 Summer Feeding Program on June 1. Staff and volunteers in kitchens in Elmwood, Abbeville, and Lake Charles will be preparing more than 2,000 meals a day to deliver to dozens of youth programs just like TCC.

Your support is what makes it all possible. Thanks to your generosity, programs like TCC — in collaboration with Second Harvest — nurture campers' minds and bodies with fun activities and nutritious meals during the long, hot summer months.

We're grateful for all you do to make summertime easier for children and families facing hunger. Thank you!

