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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Second Harvest is leading the fight against hunger in South Louisiana through food distribution, advocacy, education and disaster response



“Many of these children would otherwise get through the day on a bag of chips and a soda. Our child-feeding programs help up to 3,000 kids a day.”

Responding to Hunger and Other Disasters Year-Round

As we head into the busy part of hurricane season, we’re proud to say disaster response has been a core part of Second Harvest’s mission for our entire 35-year history. While we respond to the everyday disaster of hunger year-round, we also stand ready to help those in need no matter the crisis.

“Just since February 2016, we have distributed more than 1.7 million pounds of food, water and supplies to South Louisiana disaster victims,” says Second Harvest Chef Operating Officer, John Dziurgot. “We helped tens of thousands of people during last year’s massive August floods, after the New Orleans tornado, and other recent storm events.”

Dziurgot notes that Second Harvest stands ready for a large-scale disaster response, while at the same time

keeping our trucks on the road to our regular service area across 23 parishes.

“For instance, we may be responding to flooding in Calcasieu Parish or a tornado in LaPlace, but it’s vital that we continue to send food and support to all our other partner agencies who were not impacted by the storm. Our staff and volunteers do an amazing job keeping things rolling.”

At any given time of the year, Second Harvest has large quantities of supplies to send to disaster-stricken areas as soon as the roads are safe to travel.

“We keep things on-hand things like Abbott disaster boxes, filled with Pedialyte, Ensure, and other nutritious products to help families get through the first, hardest days after a disaster. But we’re also there for the long haul and will send aid to communities as long as it is needed.”

Are you disaster-ready? Go to getagameplan.org for information about how your family can plan for any disasters impacting our community.

no-hunger.org



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The First Line of Defense Against Childhood Hunger

Each summer, the main branch of the Lafayette Public Library fills with children seeking knowledge. Each weekday, the library is able to serve afternoon snacks to these children, thanks to your support and the Second Harvest Summer Feeding Program.

“It’s been a wonderful first year with Second Harvest,” says Youth Services Librarian Amy Wander. “A lot of families come and spend the day, and we’re very glad to be able to offer the children something to eat in the afternoon.”

Wander says many teens come into the library to escape the heat, to read, and to use the internet access. “We knew they’re not leaving to eat, so we were concerned for them.”

The Lafayette Library is one of dozens of sites receiving food from Second Harvest from May to August, sites like summer camps, vacation bible schools, and community centers where children gather during the long Louisiana summer.

Becoming a Second Harvest partner feeding site requires training and certification. “It’s been a wonderful process,” Wander told us. “Second Harvest helped us get through the process to get certification. And we’re excited about the possibility of becoming a Kids Cafe site during the academic year as well. Oftentimes, kids come into our library after school and sometimes don’t leave until much later in the evening.”

Jasmine Myeyer says the goal of the Summer Feeding Program is making sure at-risk youth have access to meals and healthy snacks outside the school year.

“Without this program, many of these children would get through the day on a bag of chips and a soda. Our child nutrition programs help feed up to 3,000 kids a day,” Meyer says. “These on-site feeding programs are our first line of defense against childhood hunger, but there’s still so much more we want to do.”

To learn more about our Summer Feeding and Kids Cafe after-school programs, contact Jasmine Meyer at jmeyer@secondharvest.org or 504-729-2840.



President’s Message:

Making the very best use of your tax dollars

The vast majority of our food and funds come from private donors — individuals, corporations, and foundations who share an interest in fighting hunger. However, one-fourth of our food and funds comes from partnerships with government agencies including the USDA, the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security, and the Louisiana Departments of Agriculture and Forestry, Children and Family Services, and Education. It is important for both the public and our politicians to know that Second Harvest makes extremely efficient use of these hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

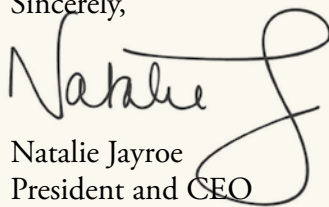
There is a vast difference between the number of people we help and the number of people that are still going hungry in South Louisiana. We call this the “meal gap,” and that gap is more than 30 million meals per year across our 23-parish service area.

Our public and private partnerships at the local, state, and federal levels are helping to bridge this gap. For instance, we receive more than nine million pounds of food product per year from the USDA —nutritious food from farmers and the food industry that might otherwise wind up in landfills. The federal government has recognized that sending this food to food banks like ours is the best way to ensure it is distributed to those most in need.

Similarly, we work with local cities and parishes to determine the most efficient ways to help at-risk neighbors in their areas. In times of disaster, Second Harvest works with local governments as a primary distributor of food, water, and emergency supplies. And for hurricanes and other storms that threaten our area, we partner year-round with parish Departments of Homeland Security to prepare for assistance before, during, and long after the storm has passed.

In this time of tightening budgets, it is crucial that your monetary donations to Second Harvest and your tax dollars are being used in the most efficient way possible. Our government partnerships at the local, state, and federal level help to ensure that every dollar and every pound is maximized to benefit as many of those in need as possible.

Sincerely,


Natalie Jayroe
President and CEO



“We started out helping about ten people a month,” said Pastor Shirley Gravois. “Now, we help more than 225 families.”

Your Support Helps the Hungry in Thibodaux

On a recent weekday, we visited Promise of Life Ministries in Thibodaux, one of hundreds of local community partners supported by Second Harvest. Pastor Shirley Gravois and more than a dozen volunteers were busy packing food into grocery bags for those they serve.

The Pastor told us her “Fishes and Loaves” ministry to the hungry started seventeen years ago.

“We started out helping about ten people a month,” she said. “Now, we help more than 225 families.”

Seventy-year-old Gary Andreas is among the 400+ Thibodaux-area residents who receive help from the church each month.

“I was working at the sugar mill but then got asthma and have heart trouble. I have to take eight medicines a day,” he told us. “I get a little over a thousand dollars a month from social security and disability, and by the time I pay rent and buy medicine, there sometimes ain’t nothing left for groceries.”



Pastor Gravois says those she helps come from all walks of life.

“A lot of people we help have been out of work in the oil and gas industry for a long, long time. There was a young man who was a mechanic on a service boat who came in and said, “I never thought in my whole life I would be standing in line for food.” I told him, ‘I know you’re not happy about being here, but I’m thankful we’re able to help you.”

It is only because of the support of our donors like you that Pastor Gravois can open her doors to so many.

“I’m so thankful for Second Harvest. Without them, we simply would not have our food pantry in Thibodaux.”



Making Long-Range Plans to Support Our Mission

Local attorney Ashbrooke Tullis is a longtime supporter of Second Harvest Food Bank.

In addition to her regular donations, Ashbrooke’s support includes naming Second Harvest the beneficiary of her employer-provided life insurance policy. “It is such an easy way to give,” she says. Through this planned gift, she will make a much larger donation to Second Harvest than she might otherwise be able to give.

Ashbrooke strongly believes in Second Harvest’s mission. “We live in a nation of plenty, yet there are families who don’t have enough to eat,” she says. “Second Harvest is on the ground every day working to make sure food that might otherwise be thrown away gets to those who need it most.”

As a former member of our Board of Directors, Ashbrooke encourages others to include Second Harvest in their wills.

“Hunger is a systemic issue that touches every aspect of our society. If we can ensure children are well-fed, we can have a positive impact on their health, their ability to do well in school, and eventually, to obtain a good job. Solving hunger will improve so many of the problems our communities face. It’s about neighbors helping neighbors.”

For more information about including Second Harvest in your estate plans, please contact Director of Development, Heather Sweeney at hsweeney@secondharvest.org or 504-729-2839.

**Second Harvest
COMMUNITY
KITCHEN**



Annual Impact

July 2016 - June 2017

104

PARTNER SITES SERVING CHILDREN

13,923

VOLUNTEER HOURS PREPARING MEALS

9,505

CHILDREN SERVED

195,148

MEALS SERVED TO CHILDREN

Help today at no-hunger.org