

NOVEMBER 2018

food for thought

THANKS TO YOU

the holidays are
brighter for retirees
like Leroy



 **SECOND
HARVEST
FOOD BANK**
FEEDING SOUTH LOUISIANA

no-hunger.org

Encouraging words

from Natalie



From Louisiana, With Love

Last month, Hurricane Florence displaced tens of thousands of our neighbors on the East Coast and is on track to be the sixth costliest storm to strike the United States. And once again, our staff, supporters, and volunteers provided aid to those impacted by this destructive event.

Second Harvest's year-round disaster response plan means that we can immediately respond to disasters that strike Louisiana and across the country as well. The lessons we learned from Katrina, Rita, Gustav, and other emergencies have made our staff national disaster response experts. As such, Feeding America tapped us to assess the network's response to Florence.

I spent several days in Fayetteville and Raleigh shortly after the storm helping food banks plan logistics, response, and sourcing of food and disaster supplies. I saw community partners working with food banks to help families replace everything that had been lost to the flood waters.

During my time in North Carolina, I saw very resilient people, many of whom were still trying to recover from Hurricane Matthew. Every storm is different, but what is consistent is the willingness of people to help others, whether next door or several states away.

I'm especially proud of our Community Kitchen team who partnered with dozens of local chefs and restaurant staff to produce thousands of Louisiana-themed meals to send to the Carolinas. All of the food was donated for these meals, and two very generous supporters donated the cost and use of their private planes to deliver them to areas hard-hit by flooding. All these meals went on to feed survivors and first responders alike.

As residents of the Louisiana gulf coast, we know what it's like to experience a disaster, and we remember receiving an outpouring of support from people around the world. It is an honor and a privilege to be able to "pay it forward" to our neighbors in need in the Carolinas.

Gratefully,

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

Natalie Jayroe
President and CEO
Second Harvest Food Bank



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THANK YOU for giving seniors a happy Thanksgiving

Facing the high cost of medical bills, many seniors rely on Second Harvest to make ends meet.

Leroy Williams is one of thousands of South Louisiana seniors who depend on food pantries and soup kitchens supplied by Second Harvest. Most weekdays, he eats lunch at the Holy Ghost Diner in Opelousas.

He recently retired from an auto plant in Ohio and moved back home to Louisiana, living on a small pension and social security.

"I didn't think I'd have to make a choice between bills and medicine and food, but I did. And I do," he told us. "The food here is really good, and it sustains me for another day."

Second Harvest helps seniors like Mr. Williams with our Peoples Health Holiday Senior Meal Campaign. This program has delivered more than 35,000 meals to senior centers for Thanksgiving and Christmas since 2011.

Providing a nutritious meal and ensuring that seniors don't spend the holidays alone is meaningful to them and also to staff and volunteers. Many seniors can't be with their loved ones or prepare meals on their own.

"It's very rewarding to prepare and deliver these meals to people who have done so much for others their whole lives," said Second Harvest Community Kitchen Director Susan Goss. "They're so humble and hesitant to ask for help, but we're glad to be able to provide a hot meal, especially this time of the year."

Thank you for helping Second Harvest make sure that seniors have enough to eat during the holidays and year-round.



YOUR SUPPORT HELPS Shelly's Working Family



Shelly and her husband own a landscaping business. "Normally, we save all through the summer, so that we can afford our winters," she told us. "But we've been through a really slow season."

Her family visits the food pantry at St. Edward the Confessor Church during slow times. "During the winter, we visit maybe twice a month, and then three or four times the rest of the year. It really makes a difference with four teenage boys in the house."

Shelly and her husband struggle with high medical bills. To make ends meet, they cut back on expensive doctor's visits and medications. She says it's a matter of, "You won't eat tonight if we have to get teeth fixed or go to the doctor."

Despite their challenges, Shelly and her boys volunteer at St. Edward.

"I've seen how awesome this pantry is, so we give back as much as we can. If it wasn't for St. Edward and Second Harvest, a lot of us would have hungry children at home."

Shelly is grateful for the food she receives from Second Harvest. The day we met, she told us, "Today we're having eggs and bacon. That's a good day."

Thank you for helping families like Shelly's in their time of need.



TOMORROW'S HARVEST

Legacy gifts ensure that Second Harvest can continue to lead the fight against hunger and help 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 us in your estate plans, please let us know so we can thank you and include you in our legacy society, "Tomorrow's Harvest."

For more information, please contact Director of Development Heather Sweeney at hsweeney@secondharvest.org or at 504-729-2839.

LAFAYETTE DADS ON A MISSION to fight childhood hunger

An orthopedic surgeon. A Louisiana Scrap Metal Recycling Sales Manager. A partner in a pool construction and landscaping business. And a Regional Vice President for Acadian Ambulance. What do they have in common? Fighting hunger.

Brian Etier, Matt Rongey, Guy Harper and Justin Back are young Lafayette-area dads who are taking action to fight childhood hunger in South Louisiana.

"We're young dads who wanted to find a way to help hungry kids," Back says. "We often take food for granted, but hunger is a real problem in our community, and we want to help."

The four men pooled their entrepreneurial skills to support Second Harvest's children's feeding programs. They haven't just donated money, they have raised it — lots of it. \$5,000 and counting ...

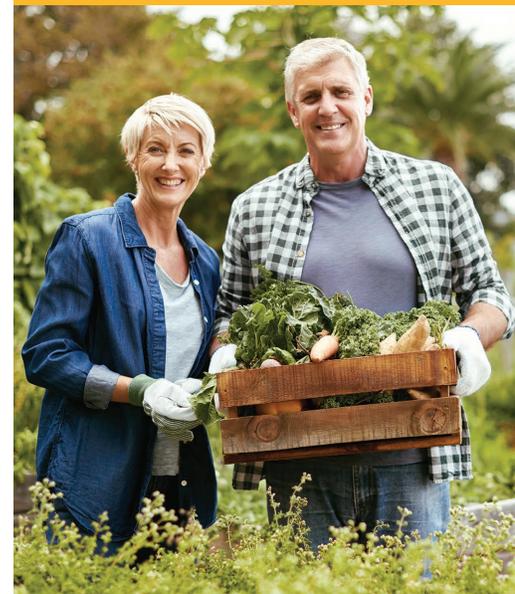
"We saw Second Harvest Summer Feeding and School Pantry programs

in action and were impressed," Harper said. "Donations are used in the most efficient and effective way."

The group has already raised enough money to fully fund the Lafayette Parish Public Library Summer Feeding Program this year and they are currently fundraising for the School Pantry at Paul Breaux Middle School. They have reached out to their networks of family, friends and co-workers to raise awareness and funds through special events like dinners, tents at local festivals, and more.

"You're surprised at the level of need," said Harper. "There's a definite need in our community, especially for the kids."

Back agrees. "We know we can't do everything, but we have to do something."



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

