

SEPTEMBER 2019

food for thought

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hope to
**CHILDREN AND
FAMILIES
ACROSS SOUTH
LOUISIANA**



 **SECOND
HARVEST
FOOD BANK**
FEEDING SOUTH LOUISIANA

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A message from Natalie

Dear Friends,

I would like to use this space to share with you a very special message we recently received from our partners with the Coast Guard. You helped Second Harvest provide meals and personal care items to families impacted by the government shutdown earlier this year.

Thank you for your support – it means so much to the children, families, and seniors we serve every day.

With gratitude,


Natalie Jayroe
President and CEO



Dear Second Harvest,

On behalf of the Coast Guard Spouses' Club of Greater New Orleans, local Coast Guard service members, and their families, I would like to sincerely thank you for your assistance during the recent government shutdown. Our active duty members and civilian employees continued to keep the watch during this stressful and unprecedented period. Your generous donation of food, pantry items, and diapers helped offset daily living costs for personnel and their families and provided a much needed boost to morale.

The purpose of the Coast Guard Spouses' Club of Greater New Orleans is to support the morale and well-being of Coast Guard families through charitable and social activities. By your donation, you partnered with us in our mission and helped reach hundreds of Coast Guard families.

You may not know the individual names of all the people you impacted, but we all felt the circle of community you provided to us with your donation. We appreciate your generous support. Thanks again.

Respectfully yours,

Krystal Sheltry
Food Pantry Chairperson
Coast Guard Spouses' Club
Belle Chasse, Louisiana

Your Support Means More than Just a Box of Food for Amanda and Her Family

Our Daily Bread in Hammond is a community food pantry and soup kitchen supported by your donations to Second Harvest. Amanda started coming here about a year ago following a breakup with her husband. One of the pantry's staff told us, "She at first was sad and discouraged. She said she was so depressed at the thought of raising her kids on her own. But on her return visits, she told us how much visiting our pantry brightened her day."

The staff and volunteers of Our Daily Bread supplied Amanda with food, but also provided counseling to help with her family problems. Thanks to their help, Amanda and her husband have worked things out and they recently remarried.

"She came in as a depressed single mother, and now she's an empowered wife and mom who feels that her life has been transformed," the volunteer said. "The hope of getting the food she needed every month and the positive relationships we had with her created thankfulness in her day."

Every month, Second Harvest delivers more than 70,000 pounds of food to Our Daily Bread's pantry in Tangipahoa Parish. In addition to serving local Hammond residents four days a week, this pantry also in turn provides food to more than two dozen smaller pantries throughout the parish.

John Hair, the pantry's Director, said their mission goes beyond putting food on tables. "It's our mission to help with their life problems, if we can, that bring them to our food pantry. And it's important that our staff and volunteers understand what these neighbors are going through."



Thank you for helping Miss Doris make ends meet

Eighty-six year-old Doris Williams receives groceries from Second Harvest's mobile pantry truck once a month at Little Zion Baptist Church in New Orleans.

"It truly is a blessing, and I thank God and everyone who makes this food possible," she told us.

Since Ms. Williams retired from her job as a telephone operator in 1992, she has lived on a small pension and a social security check. Miss Doris lives alone and doesn't have any family nearby who can help. "It's hard some months, but this food makes it so much easier for people like me who are on a fixed income."

The mobile pantry at Little Zion distributes more than 12,000 pounds of fresh produce and other meals every month to local residents like Ms. Williams. Second Harvest Program Coordinator Charles Pierre says it has become an essential asset in the lives of many local residents like Ms. Williams.



"Many of these folks are retired, and while their limited income during retirement is fixed, the cost of food has steadily risen over the years," Pierre said. "Giving them enough food for a couple of weeks makes a huge difference in so many ways. It means they will have enough to eat, but can also handle other choices, like buying medicine and paying utility bills."

Thank you for helping seniors like Ms. Williams make ends meet every month.

Nurturing the Mind, Body, and Soul in Acadiana

Five years ago, True Vine Ministries became a partner of Second Harvest, distributing food and help to the community of Scott, just west of Lafayette.

"I saw how the need was for low-income families, and especially for the elderly," said church pantry Director Judy Francis.

By partnering with Second Harvest, Judy and her team created what looks like a small grocery store where those in need can "shop" for nutritious groceries at no charge.

"It's a good thing that helps with their self-esteem, because they're choosing their food, and we're not choosing it for them."

In addition to meat, canned goods, and fresh produce, visitors can also get personal hygiene items, thanks to the support of donors like you.

"And now we're expanding to bring in health professionals from local medical facilities," Ms. Frances said. Along with food distribution, the Church also hosts health fairs, where people can get free medical screenings for diabetes, vision, blood pressure, cholesterol, stroke prevention and other health concerns."

"The Church really is like a family hospital, where people already come for physical and emotional help when they're in need. We want to help them live better lives and help diagnose problems early on, before they become bigger problems."

Thanks to your support, Second Harvest and our partner agencies can improve the lives of children, families, and seniors across South Louisiana. We couldn't do it without your help.





YOU MAKE OUR DISASTER RESPONSE POSSIBLE

Over the years, you have helped Second Harvest respond to more than fifteen natural and man-made disasters across Louisiana and our region.

“Being ready to respond to emergencies has been a core part of our mission for more than 30 years,” according to Chief Operations Officer John Dziurgot. “Our staff prepares year-round to respond to storms and other disasters, not just during hurricane season.”

And thanks to a recent grant from the Ford Motor Company Fund, Second Harvest now has a new disaster response vehicle to help our neighbors in need. “This van is outfitted to be a mobile kitchen. We will now be able to deliver and prepare hot meals on-site, no matter where the need is,” Dziurgot said.

While many thankfully consider July’s Hurricane Barry a “fizzle,” the storm still caused serious impacts to South Louisiana residents, especially in coastal communities. Immediately following the storm, Second Harvest delivered more than 30,000 pounds of food, water, and supplies to communities like Morgan City, Jean Lafitte, Grand Isle, and other areas hard-hit by flooding and power outages.

Thanks to donors like you, as well as our relationships with hundreds of community partners and government agencies, Second Harvest stands ready to respond to storms that threaten our communities, as well as to the everyday disaster of hunger.

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.



Second Harvest works in partnership with:



contact us

700 Edwards Ave
New Orleans, LA 70123-3121
504.734.1322

215 East Pinhook Road
Lafayette, LA 70501-8533
337.237.7711

To learn more or to make a donation to Second Harvest Food Bank visit www.no-hunger.org

