

NOVEMBER 2019

food for thought

You're giving
hope to
**FAMILIES
ACROSS SOUTH
LOUISIANA**



 **SECOND
HARVEST
FOOD BANK**
FEEDING SOUTH LOUISIANA

no-hunger.org



A message *from Natalie*

A Time to be Thankful

For so many of us, Thanksgiving and the holidays are about family and food: sharing meals, family gatherings, and spending time with loved ones. It's a time to be thankful, but also to remember the thousands of our neighbors who struggle to put food on the table every day.

At Second Harvest, we are grateful for the support of so many people like you, who make our mission possible:

- Friends who organize food drives in their churches, neighborhoods, schools, businesses, and organizations;
- Local grocery stores who gift us with millions of pounds of fresh food and produce every year;
- The 10,000+ volunteers every year who do everything from preparing children's meals to repackaging donations to harvesting fresh produce;
- Our 700+ community partners, local food pantries, churches, shelters, soup kitchens, schools, and medical centers, who help distribute the 30+ million pounds of food we collect every year;
- And most of all, you, our donors, who trust us to make sure your monetary donations are used most efficiently and effectively to feed as many children, families, and seniors as possible.

On behalf of our staff, volunteers, and those we serve, may you have a Happy Thanksgiving and a very Merry Christmas.

Sincerely,

Natalie Jayroe
President and CEO

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 504-729-2839.



I've worked all my life. I'm lost without my work.

Recently, we met the Hutchinson family of Angie, in Washington Parish. Together, they struggle to make ends meet. **They regularly receive help from one of the hundreds of local food pantries supported by your donations to Second Harvest.**

Robert (left) suffers from a genetic kidney disorder that will soon require dialysis. "The same thing took my mother in 2009, and my brother had a kidney transplant, too. I've been looking for work, and I've been trying, but no one will hire me with this condition."

His father David retired a couple of years ago due to a back injury. "I've worked all my life, I'm lost without my work," he told us. After a moment, he added about his wife, "And it's been ten years, but I miss her so much every day."

We met the two men in Bogalusa at a special distribution of 50,000 pounds of food provided to Second Harvest by American farmers and food producers, donated through the USDA. The food included fresh fruits and vegetables, pork, milk, eggs, and dairy products. **Thanks to your monetary donations, we are able to deliver this food to people in need in Bogalusa and other communities across our 23-parish service area.**



"This food is a godsend," the younger Hutchinson told us. "We get by on my father's little Social Security check, and this helps a lot. Really, a lot."

On behalf of Robert, David, and everyone we serve, thank you for making our mission possible.



Second Harvest once again ranks highest in financial health

We know our supporters expect the highest level of vigilance when it comes to financial transparency, efficiency of operations, and stewardship of the dollars donated to us. We're happy to report recent top-to-bottom professional audits and reviews of Second Harvest show the quality of our operations and mission.

Charity Navigator is a national, independent organization that audits and ranks the overall financial health of nearly 10,000 charities across the United States. **Recently, Charity Navigator once again awarded Second Harvest four out of four stars based on accountability, transparency, and use of donated funds.** The audit showed that less than 4% of funds raised by Second Harvest went to administrative and fundraising expenses (including food expense), and nearly 97% is going directly to helping those in need.

"These accolades are a wonderful testament to the dedication of our staff and volunteers," said Second Harvest Chief Administrative Officer Elisha Darcey. "Still, we continue to strive to improve efficiency and how to stretch those very important dollars entrusted to our care. It is extremely important that we make the best possible use of every dollar and pound of food that is entrusted to the mission of Second Harvest Food Bank."

We couldn't have received this top rating without you. Thank you for trusting us with your donations, your volunteer time, and your good will. Your support means so much to us and the children, families, and seniors we serve.

See more in-depth information about our Charity Navigator Ranking at no-hunger.org/CN



Thank you for helping seniors during the holidays and year-round

As the American population grows older, and as more and more South Louisiana residents move into their retirement years, the problem of senior hunger is an ever-growing concern. We're able to help thousands of senior citizens every day thanks to you and great partners like Peoples Health.

Louisiana is first in the nation when it comes to the number of seniors at risk of hunger, with one in four of our elderly neighbors facing hard choices on very limited incomes. It is a year-round Second Harvest priority to find the best ways to serve them, but it's especially hard on many seniors during the holidays.

"Many of these seniors have spent their whole lives caring for others and making our country what it is today," according to Second Harvest Chief Impact Officer Luella Provenza. "Now,

many face daily choices between food, medicine, and utilities. And during the holidays, many of them are alone, with no family to lean on."

Thanks to the generous support of Peoples Health, Second Harvest will deliver thousands of Thanksgiving and Christmas meals to the Greatest Generation at senior centers and Second Harvest partner agencies across South Louisiana.

"It's so important to remember to support our older population now and in the years to come," Provenza said. "Many also find themselves unexpectedly raising grandchildren, putting an additional burden on already limited household resources. Second Harvest is honored to do whatever we can for seniors, because they have already done so much for us all."



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

