

FEBRUARY 2020

food for thought



You're helping
**KIDS GROW
UP STRONG**



 **SECOND
HARVEST
FOOD BANK**
FEEDING SOUTH LOUISIANA

no-hunger.org

A message from Natalie

Second Harvest: We do all that!

When people think of Second Harvest, many people think of the countless boxes of donated food that we provide to soup kitchens, pantries, schools and shelters across the state.

Indeed, in the last year, our staff and volunteers provided 34 million meals to these vital community partners across 23 South Louisiana parishes.

But over the last few years, and especially following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, our mission has grown to serve those in need in many other ways. Here is a snapshot of the innovative programs you have helped support:

Kids Cafe: This after-school feeding program provides meals and snacks to children at locations like libraries, churches, recreational centers, and anywhere kids have a structured, safe place to go after the bell rings. For kids who don't always have a nutritious meal at home for dinner, Kids Cafe helps bridge that gap so they can study and become more productive young men and women.

Summer Feeding: This program provides free breakfast, lunch, and snacks to thousands of South Louisiana children over the long summer break. For many of these children, the Summer Feeding meals might be the only nutritious meals of the day.

Mobile Pantries: For communities and neighborhoods that don't have a traditional food pantry, we bring the pantry to them. Our Mobile Pantries are large trucks loaded with fresh produce and non-perishable food to help families in need, especially in food deserts and rural parts of South Louisiana.

Disaster Response: Responding to disasters large and small is a core part of our mission. Following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Second Harvest for a time became the world's largest food bank. In the years since 2005, our team has responded to more than 15 major disasters including hurricanes, floods and tornadoes.

Rescue Runner: For the first time, Second Harvest now has an efficient way to collect prepared food donations from restaurants and catered events. Using an online app, volunteers pick up these meals and deliver them to locations like the New Orleans Mission. With a click of a button, we can ensure these nutritious meals make it to people in need, instead of the landfill.

We continue to look for new ways to fight hunger across South Louisiana, and welcome your ideas and suggestions. Please contact me at njayroe@secondharvest.org with questions about any of the above, or to discuss thoughts you may have about how we can serve our community.

Sincerely,



Natalie Jayroe
President and CEO



**TOMORROW'S
HARVEST:
HELP FIGHT HUNGER
FOR YEARS TO COME**

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.

Donor Spotlight: How to Make a Lasting Impact

Charitable bequests make an enormous difference to an organization like Second Harvest Food Bank.

Cecelia Medley was a compassionate member of our New Orleans community. Throughout her life, she was involved with her church, volunteered as a pharmacist with the St. Vincent de Paul Community Pharmacy, and was a long-time donor to Second Harvest. She cared deeply about children going hungry and made regular, small contributions to the food bank to help those in need in South Louisiana.

Cecelia was able to make her biggest possible gift by including Second Harvest in her will. She recently passed away at the age of 93 and she left the proceeds of the sale of her home to Second Harvest. **Her gift will make an incredible impact by helping Second Harvest provide nutritious meals to thousands of children and families in need.**

Her commitment to Second Harvest's mission is truly inspirational. We are so grateful for her generosity and the support of all our donors who make our mission possible.



You can help ensure ZERO food goes to waste



In South Louisiana, we're blessed with some of the best food and restaurants in the world. But, one big problem is the meals that go to waste when extra food is left at the end of the business day.

That's where our new Rescue Runner program comes in. **Rescue Runner utilizes an online app to allow local restaurants, hotels, and event spaces in Greater New Orleans, Lafayette, and Lake Charles to contact on-call mobile volunteers.** These volunteers quickly respond to pick up the extra food and deliver it to one of our many community partners.

Each Rescue Runner volunteer is trained in food-safety requirements, and they are equipped with custom-designed warmers to keep the donated restaurant food at a safe temperature.

"Until now, we haven't had an efficient way to pick up extra prepared meals, especially after-hours," said Second Harvest Food Sourcing Manager Emily Slazer. **"Now we can rescue those meals, and make them readily available to people in need at our partner shelters and soup kitchens. Food that would go into a landfill is ending up on someone's plate that same day."**

These nutritious meals are making a big difference for the people we serve. Jerry, a participant in the Discipleship Program

at the New Orleans Mission, says, "A lot of people here are very grateful for the food. This food is a blessing."

Rescue Runner is possible thanks to your financial donations, and because of major support from Shipt for this new program to prevent food waste.

More than 40% of all the food produced in America winds up in landfills. Rescue Runner is yet another way our team and volunteers are making a difference in getting some of that perfectly good food to those who need it most.

If you would like to volunteer or learn more, please visit no-hunger.org/rescuerrunner.

You're helping kids grow up strong



Feeding hungry children is a cornerstone of our mission at Second Harvest. And our after-school Kids Cafe program is an important way your support helps at-risk children.

Every week during the school year, Second Harvest volunteers and drivers prepare, package, and deliver thousands of hot meals and snacks to children across our 23-parish service area. For many children, it can make an incredible impact.

"Many of these children don't eat very well at home," according to Second Harvest Programs and Innovation Manager Tanya O'Reilly. **"To be able to provide at least one well-rounded, nutritious meal after school can make all the difference in the world."**

Second Harvest staff and volunteers begin the day in our 8,000 square-foot Community Kitchen preparing meals for Kids Cafe dinners and snacks. Then drivers arrive in the afternoon to deliver the food to dozens of sites such as schools, churches, libraries, and other places where children gather after school.

Madison W. is a parent who works two jobs, and is grateful

for the meals her two daughters receive at the Kids Cafe program at the public library in Houma.

"I'm so glad my girls have a safe place to study and eat, and be supervised, while I'm still at work," she told us. "It also helps so much with our finances. Buying an extra meal for both girls five days a week can get expensive on our limited budget."

It's hard to learn on an empty stomach, and many kids can't focus due to hunger. When children have access to healthy meals every day, they feel better and do better in school. They have what they need to grow, play, and learn.

Your support makes a big difference. The Kids Cafe program takes considerable time, energy, and funds to operate. Second Harvest does receive a small government stipend for every meal served to help defray costs, but it doesn't cover the total expenses of the program.

"Our donors who support us with financial contributions absolutely help keep this program running," O'Reilly said. "A thousand thank-you's to everyone who makes this incredibly vital program possible."



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

