

NOVEMBER 2020

# food for thought

Record  
Hunger in a  
**HISTORIC  
YEAR**



 **SECOND  
HARVEST  
FOOD BANK**  
FEEDING SOUTH LOUISIANA

[no-hunger.org](http://no-hunger.org)



# A message *from Natalie*

## A historic year for Second Harvest.

As we prepare to share the holidays with our loved ones, our family at Second Harvest is reflecting back on 2020.

**Our staff has been working harder than ever this year to respond to the unprecedented need for food, while facing personal challenges themselves. Many lost family members to COVID-19. Working parents and grandparents with school-age children struggled with the demands of finding child care during school closures and navigating "distance learning" for the first time.**

Then, amidst our pandemic response, Hurricane Laura, the strongest storm to hit our state in more than 150 years, slammed into Southwest Louisiana and our team immediately began serving tens of thousands of people impacted by the storm. At the time this newsletter went to print in early October, we were preparing for Hurricane Delta as it headed towards Louisiana's gulf coast. With your support, we will continue to help these disaster survivors as they rebuild their homes, businesses, and lives.

Second Harvest has responded to these unprecedented challenges with incredible resilience and resolve. In the past seven months our trucks delivered 40 million pounds of food

to those who continue to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We have produced more than 1 million meals in our kitchens in Jefferson and Lafayette Parishes for seniors, children, the homeless, and hurricane survivors. In all, Second Harvest is on track to provide twice as much food to our 23-parish community in 2020 as we did in 2019.



**Without question, this has been a difficult year in many ways, but it has also been a year of unparalleled generosity. I have never been prouder of the people who make our mission possible. Our team could only achieve this record year thanks to the donors, partners, and so many others who trust us as experts when it comes to disaster relief. There is still much work to do, but with your support, Second Harvest will be there to help our neighbors in need.**

Sincerely,

*Natalie J*  
Natalie Jayroe  
President and CEO

## In this record year, our team *thanks you* for your support



Over our four-decade history, Second Harvest has responded to emergencies like COVID-19, hurricanes, and floods, as well as the everyday disaster of hunger. This year, we have fed a record number of families, seniors, children, and the homeless. In fact, TWICE as many people as a year ago.

**Because of social distancing and the closure of so many of our traditional partners this year due to the pandemic and storms, we've had to come up with innovative ways to provide these much-needed meals. Starting in March, we began mass distributions of food and supplies across our entire 23-parish area, including Lafayette, Lake Charles, Houma, Metairie, New Orleans, the Northshore, and many other communities. At times, these events fed up to 3,000 families.**

We also supported smaller, neighborhood distributions where food pantries were shuttered by the ongoing emergency. And we partnered with dozens of local nonprofit organizations and the National Guard to provide thousands of hot meals to seniors, children, and families.

It has been an incredible team effort by so many donors, volunteers, and friends of our food bank. And as the pandemic emergency is likely to continue into 2021, we expect the increased need to as well.

So from our family to yours, THANK YOU!





"Second Harvest is honored to do whatever we can for seniors, because they have already done so much for us all."



## Thank you for fighting senior hunger

**Most of us imagine our golden years as a time of leisure and comfort. But for too many seniors, their later years are filled with difficult decisions no one ever wants to face: heat or food? Medication or meals? Raising grandchildren, costly medical care, dwindling savings, and now COVID-19 – these are just some of the factors that all too often mean that the retirement they worked so hard for is out of reach. Worse, they are going hungry.**

One in six South Louisiana seniors are food-insecure, a situation that is even more dire as the ongoing pandemic has made them vulnerable to illness, and confined them to their homes. While Second Harvest battles senior hunger year-round, the holidays are an especially challenging time, and we expect this year to be even more so.

In such trying times, it is more important than ever to ensure seniors are cared for and appreciated. For over a decade, Peoples Health and Second Harvest have partnered to ensure thousands of seniors enjoy a delicious, homemade meal during the holiday season.

"Peoples Health is proud to support Second Harvest in its efforts to provide much-needed, nutritious meals to the senior community this holiday season," shared Warren Murrell, CEO of Peoples Health. "By partnering with Second Harvest's Holiday Meals for Seniors program, we are able to highlight the need to support the community and bring awareness to senior hunger."

Thanks to the generous support of Peoples Health, Second Harvest will share more than 6,000 Thanksgiving and Christmas meals with seniors across South Louisiana this year. "Without the generations before us, few of us would be where we are today," said Robin Young, Second Harvest's Chief Impact Officer. "And as so many continue to sacrifice, Second Harvest is honored to provide them with dignity, respect, and support, now and in the years to come."





## You are continuing to help Southwest Louisiana neighbors

Holly Beach in Cameron Parish was ground zero for Hurricane Laura's Category 4 winds. Now, three months later, residents like Nikki are struggling to get by.

"We were uncertain what we would find. Everything is gone, our place is completely leveled. It's devastating, no words to describe it. We've never experienced this."

Cameron Parish suffered catastrophic damage from the storm. Winds and flooding caused extensive damage to power grids and water systems across the region, and experts estimate weeks or even months before these are fully restored. In the meantime, residents of Cameron Parish must travel by boat to their homes and businesses to begin the process of rebuilding.

After vacationing at Holly Beach as a visitor, Terri's family moved there permanently.

**"It's day-by-day for us now. But we're going to come back and rebuild. This is paradise, when it's good, it's good. We love the people, and our neighbors also want to come back."**

As in other disasters, Second Harvest is in our communities before, during, and after emergencies like Laura. Working with our Southwest Louisiana partners, we are organizing mass grocery distributions and delivering hot meals to families who would otherwise go without.

"Thank you to everyone who has helped. We are so thankful and grateful."

## Tomorrow's Harvest: Help Fight Hunger For Years To Come

While we need your support today more than ever, planned gifts will ensure Second Harvest is here for decades to come. 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](mailto:hsweeney@secondharvest.org) or 504-729-2839.**



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](http://www.no-hunger.org)

