

**SECOND
HARVEST
FOOD BANK
OF METROLINA**

Together We CAN End Hunger

**COVID-19
RESPONSE**



BLESSINGS

Newsletter

Kay's Message



I have known for almost 17 years now how special our supporters, staff and board members are here at Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina. Everyone here thought we had experienced everything there was to experience including numerous hurricanes and economic downturns. But nothing could have prepared us for COVID-19.

What sets this apart from all of the challenges we have faced? So many things. First of all, the need has been tremendous. Children have been out of school for months missing the breakfast and lunches they depend on. Seniors who attend congregate feeding sites are quarantined at home without access to those meals. Unemployment has risen dramatically impacting so many families throughout our region.

Second, every food bank has been impacted by COVID-19. When a hurricane hits, not every area is impacted and we can help each other. Many times the Charlotte community has risen to requests for assistance from the coastal NC and SC food banks when storms have hit. This time food banks are struggling to take care of all of their needs, making it harder to help our neighboring food banks.

Third, most of our partner agencies are completely run by volunteers, many of them seniors. Some of these volunteers have needed to remain home to stay safe. Second Harvest Food Bank is also heavily dependent on volunteers with a very small staff for a food bank our size. We have had to depend on less volunteers as corporate providers have staff working from home in many cases, some retired volunteers are choosing to stay safely at home, and we can only use small groups well spaced out to ensure everyone's safety. So in short, we have many less people to do more work.

Finally, to comply with the necessary safety guidelines, we have had to change many of our operating procedures. Rather than allowing families to shop at a food pantry partner or at a mobile pantry, everything is having to be pre-boxed and distributions are being held as drive throughs. This is safer but requires much more work and time to pack hundreds of thousands of boxes.

Our staff has had to pivot at every turn. We have simply had to learn to do things differently and to embrace this challenge. One of my favorite quotes that I have repeated to the staff consistently since March is, "Experience is what you get when you didn't get what you wanted." The lesson here is that no matter how hard times are, you always gain experience and you become better prepared for the next challenge.

We wanted to send out this special edition of Blessings to say thank you to our supporters. As always, you have stood strong with us and we are so grateful for every one of you. It would have taken a 200 page newsletter to thank everyone who has helped and I apologize that we could not write about every donor. Hopefully what you will find in these pages are stories that are representative of the many ways our region has stepped up to help our neighbors. And even if your story is not featured, we are still more grateful than you will ever know.

Please continue to stand behind our efforts because we are not back to normal yet. And we need you to help us keep feeding everyone who is hungry in our 24 counties of North and South Carolina. I wish blessings and safety for you and your families.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kay". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the letter 'y'.

Kay Carter
CEO



Update on Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina's COVID-19 Response

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated to the Food Bank during this extremely challenging time. We wanted to share what your donations have made possible the last several months.

From March 19th - August 31st we accomplished the following thanks to each of you:

- **Distributed over 10 million more pounds of food** than last year during this same timeframe
- **Served over 19,000 families** at our school-based mobile pantries
- **Provided over 275,000 nutritionally balanced food boxes** throughout our 24 county region (14 counties in NC and 10 counties in SC)
- **Distributed 7 million more pounds of fresh produce, meat, and dairy products** than last year during this same timeframe

Please remember that COVID-19 is still here. Unemployment rates are extremely high, children are still missing school meals and many seniors are still quarantined.

We need everyone to continue supporting us over the next several months. This is a marathon, not a sprint. Please help us keep our neighbors fed.



Grocery Partner Highlight



Harris Teeter has been one of the Food Bank's strongest supporters for decades. They are consistently one of our top food donors and one of our top financial donors, sponsoring many of our special events. With COVID-19 all of our grocery store partners have been challenged with keeping their store shelves stocked as food shortages and non-food shortages have occurred throughout the pandemic.

Harris Teeter created several new opportunities to assist food banks throughout their footprint to contend with COVID-19. They approached their produce donors about providing loads of fresh produce for the food banks. With schools closed, many of the food service companies and schools that normally purchase produce were not purchasing as much and farmers were working to try and not waste this valuable and nutritious product.

Harris Teeter also sponsored a Round Up campaign for customers in their stores with funds going to food banks throughout their region. Customers raised a total of \$1,053,225 with \$193,835 being raised in our 24 county service region alone. These funds made it possible for us to help meet the greatly increasing needs.

Recently, Harris Teeter conducted a second Round Up campaign specifically for food bank child hunger programs including backpack programs. Thanks to generous customers, food banks received over \$330,000 to help us keep backpacks flowing to kids who are hungry throughout the Harris Teeter footprint.

This kind of support has kept us going at Second Harvest Food Bank and made it possible for us to feed so many of our neighbors who are struggling. Thank you Harris Teeter!

Partnerships Are Essential



Food Banks are by their very structure collaborators. After all, we work with over 800 partner agencies engaged in feeding the hungry throughout our 24 county service region. While we all work together closely every day, COVID-19 presented an opportunity for us to expand our partnerships with Loaves and Fishes, our largest emergency food pantry partner and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS), our largest school partner.

We knew that donors in our region would expect us to be sure that we were not duplicating services and that we were feeding as many hungry people as possible. Tina Postel, Executive Director at Loaves and Fishes, Rosanna Saladin-Subero, Director of Community Partnerships and Family Engagement at CMS and Kay Carter, CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina, began meeting every week very early on during the pandemic.

We continue to meet every week with the purpose being to ensure that we are sharing information, coordinating food distributions and just generally working together to help make sure we are feeding as many people as possible. Loaves and Fishes has worked with the food bank to distribute tens of thousands of dry food boxes as well as produce, meat and dairy boxes. CMS has worked with the food bank to host dozens of additional school mobile pantries and to provide tens of thousands of backpacks to children who are hungry.

Second Harvest Food Bank is so grateful to these two partners for their support during COVID-19 and year-round. When you work together, more gets done and it gets done more efficiently.

Special Gifts from Special Friends



BlueCross BlueShield of North Carolina

An independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association

One of our major goals at Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina is to increase the pounds of nutritious food we distribute. This includes produce, meat and dairy; items that families struggling to make ends meet can seldom afford to purchase. Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC) knows that these foods are important to keeping our community healthy.

As part of their commitment, BCBSNC made a major donation to all of the food banks in both Carolinas through our association of food banks. The funds were specifically given to help food banks expand their ability to handle more perishable foods including fresh produce, all types of meat, milk, eggs and cheese.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina received \$100,000 and we are using our funds to help us build a large cooler and freezer at our Catawba Branch located in Hickory, NC. This branch serves Catawba, Burke and Lincoln counties. Having the ability to construct this cooler and freezer will allow us to send full tractor trailer loads of produce, meat and dairy to agencies in these counties.

Thank you, BCBSNC for supporting not only our food bank but all of the food banks in the Carolinas.



Vanguard®

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNER VANGUARD RISES TO THE COVID-19 CHALLENGE

Vanguard has long supported our Food Bank hosting one of our largest food drives annually - the "All Cans on Deck" donation drive. They have won numerous Partner Awards including most recently a Lifetime Achievement Award for their years of service to those in need.

It came as no surprise to us that Vanguard stepped up to help as COVID-19 became a major issue for the Food Bank. They helped in several ways including extending their Spring fund drive into Summer, with donations including their corporate gift totaling over \$100,000 since COVID-19 began.

Grocery Partner Highlight - Food Lion Feeds



FOOD LION FEEDS

CRVA
Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority

American Airlines

FIFTH THIRD BANK

GM

GM FINANCIAL



Moore & Van Allen

PERRY'S
DIAMONDS & ESTATE JEWELRY

PSAV

SHARONVIEW®
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

TIAA

TRULIANT®
Federal Credit Union

BlueCross BlueShield
of North Carolina
An Equal Opportunity Institution

Brenda Artemes

Campbell's

DUKE ENERGY®

Jalton

MDI

Arrowpoint CAPITAL

Atrium Health

GDF
C. DeWitt Ford
& Company, P.A.

Darwin Freight
Services

HOOD
HARGETT

Jill & Suzanne Carter
— REAL ESTATE —

John & Peggy
Schug

McGriff
Insurance Services

TWC
TWC SERVICES

US
FOODS

For decades Food Lion has been one of the Food Bank's largest food donors. They have also been a sponsor for many of our special events including Empty Bowls, Sort-A-Rama and the Novant Health Thanksgiving Day Parade. As COVID-19 has forced us to pivot on how we handle special events, Food Lion has been right there supporting us all the way.

Empty Bowls is one of Second Harvest Food Bank's most beloved events and a major fundraiser. It was also the first event affected by COVID-19. Scheduled for late March 2020, we had to make the painful decision not to hold an in-person Empty Bowls event for the first time in 20 years. Food Lion supported us in this and led the way in still providing their title sponsorship and encouraging other sponsors to do the same.

We were able to hold our silent auction virtually and we retained almost all of our sponsors and individual ticket donors who graciously donated in spite of having no event to attend. Thanks to Food Lion and many others, we raised more funds this year virtually than we have raised in person in past years.

Food Lion has also donated funds to assist with COVID-19 relief, making special donations to our school based mobile program and for general hunger relief during this very challenging time. We are grateful for their leadership and support as we work to ensure everyone is fed in our community.

Make plans now to attend our next Empty Bowls scheduled for March 26, 2021.



COVID-19 RESPONSE FUND HELPS PROVIDE FOOD BOXES AND BACKPACKS FOR MECKLENBURG COUNTY

The United Way of Central Carolinas and Foundation For The Carolinas partnered together to raise funds for COVID-19 relief to be used in Mecklenburg County. This partnership includes many donors who stepped up to ensure that basic services continued in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Community.

Hunger relief was one of the primary items funded by the partnership and Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina was fortunate to receive 1.9 million dollars to use for food purchase to supply additional food boxes for Loaves and Fishes, senior food boxes, boxes for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) mobile pantries and tens of thousands of backpacks for CMS students.

Beginning in May and ending in August, the Food Bank expended these funds and was able to provide almost 55,000 backpacks and 52,000 food boxes for Loaves and Fishes, our senior hunger partners and our CMS school based mobiles. These food boxes and backpacks were a critical resource for families struggling with unemployment, children missing school meals and seniors missing congregate meals due to quarantining.

Everyone at the Food Bank is so grateful to all of our neighbors who donated to the COVID-19 Response Fund. Thank you for helping to make sure our community has enough to eat!

Cares Act Provides Funds for Distributing Fresh Produce



FEMA



CARES ACT AND FEMA STEP UP TO HELP FOOD BANK DURING COVID-19

Thanks to our friends at Mecklenburg County, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina was able to receive funds to assist us in distributing more fresh produce, meat and dairy products to families affected by COVID-19. Between March 19th and August 31st, the Food Bank provided 10 million more pounds of food than the same time last year. We also distributed over 7 million more pounds of fresh produce, meat and dairy products during this time than we did last year.

With CARES ACT funding we have been able to purchase three refrigerated 53 foot trailers that will be constantly loaded with a variety of produce, meat, eggs, milk and cheese and moved around Mecklenburg County working with various partner agencies. These trailers will not only help during COVID-19, but will help us distribute more fresh foods for years to come.

The Food Bank was also fortunate to receive FEMA funds for food purchase in Mecklenburg County as well. These funds will help us continue our work with COVID-19 relief over the next several months. Thanks to everyone involved with these donations!

Boxes, Boxes and More Boxes



With a 24 county service region that stretches north to Rowan, west to Burke, east to Montgomery and south through the entire upstate of South Carolina, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina has been overwhelmed with requests for food boxes from our partner agencies.

The next several pages focus on some of the donors that have assisted us throughout our vast service region. For every donor featured, there were dozens more who also provided funds for boxes. We regret that we cannot feature every single one but please know how grateful we are to each of you.



THE SPRINGS CLOSE FOUNDATION, FRANCES CLOSE AND WILL CLOSE TEAM UP TO SUPPORT CHESTER, YORK AND LANCASTER COUNTIES

The Springs Close Foundation, Anne Close, and her children, have long supported the efforts of the Food Bank through our senior box programs and backpack programs. For years, the foundation has provided funds for backpacks in the Fort Mill School District as well as for all of the schools in the Lancaster County School District. The foundation also funded our first senior box programs for York and Lancaster counties.

The foundation funds along with individual gifts of \$75,000 from Frances Close and \$10,000 from Will Close have helped us provide close to 6,000 food boxes for partner agencies including the York County Council on Aging, which also serves seniors in Chester County, Lancaster Christian Services, HOPE in Lancaster County, KARE and others.

These boxes have provided desperately needed food in these counties and we are so grateful for the Close family and their years of support!

Boxes, Boxes and More Boxes



AT&T PROVIDES FUNDS FOR FOOD BOXES IN OCONEE COUNTY

Just over six months ago, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina was honored to be given the chance to serve five additional counties in the South Carolina upstate. These counties include Anderson, Abbeville, Pickens, Greenwood, and Oconee. Our partner agencies in this region are served through our new branch in Williamston, SC.

Special thanks to AT&T in Oconee for providing funds to supply food boxes in this county. We are grateful for your support!



Z. SMITH REYNOLDS FOUNDATION HELPS PROVIDE NORTH CAROLINA FOOD BOXES

Thanks to our friends at the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation for providing funds for food boxes for our North Carolina counties. Because we had funds from other sources for Mecklenburg County, we were able to provide boxes in our other 13 counties in North Carolina using these funds.

We are so grateful to our friends at the foundation for caring about those in need in North Carolina.



FIRST HORIZON STEPS UP IN A BIG WAY FOR THOSE IN NEED

Our friends at First Horizon donated \$115,000 to help Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina provide food boxes in several of our service counties in both North and South Carolina. This donation provided over 6,000 food boxes to partner agencies in Gaston, Iredell, Rowan, and Mecklenburg counties in North Carolina and to agencies in York County, South Carolina.

What an amazing donation to assist those struggling with unemployment in counties where First Horizon does business. We are so grateful for your support!

Boxes, Boxes and More Boxes



THE JEM PROJECT DONATES \$100,000 FOR FOOD BOXES TO SUPPORT SCHOOL MOBILE PANTRIES

When COVID-19 first started in March, the Food Bank quickly realized that we were going to have to provide many more school-based mobile pantries than normal to meet the increased need. We had no idea where the funds would come from, but we knew it was critical. Thanks to the JEM project, a private grant making foundation, for stepping up and assisting us with food box packing for these lifeline pantries.

Due to safety measures and distancing, the Food Bank is using a drive through model to serve families at our school-based mobile pantries. This means that everything has to be pre-packed and food boxes with staple items are a must. Thanks to the JEM project and other generous donors, we have been able to serve over 19,000 families at these distributions between mid March and the end of August.

Thanks for your support!



BANK OZK STEPS UP FOR NORTH CAROLINA COUNTIES

Our friends at Bank OZK wanted to make a difference in the counties where they have offices. Thanks to their generosity we were able to provide hundreds of food boxes in Cabarrus, Cleveland, Gaston, Lincoln, Rutherford and Mecklenburg counties.

We are truly grateful for your support!

Boxes, Boxes and More Boxes



SERVING WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA COUNTIES

Thanks to the Community Foundation of Western North Carolina and the Community Foundation of Burke County, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina was able to supply our partner agencies in Burke and Rutherford counties with almost 1,000 food boxes. Both of these counties have higher than average child hunger rates and these funds were critical to helping keep children and their families fed.

Thank you for supporting our Western North Carolina counties.



Thanks to Foundation for the Carolinas in Cabarrus County and the COVID-19 relief fund in Cabarrus County, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina was able to supply over 1,000 food boxes to those in need in Cabarrus County. We are truly grateful for your support of families in need in Cabarrus!



GOOD SAMARITAN FOUNDATION PROVIDES HELP FOR ANSON COUNTY

The Good Samaritan Foundation has supported the efforts of Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina for many years and we are grateful for their additional support during COVID-19. Anson County has the highest child poverty rate of any of our 24 counties with one in every two children living in poverty.

These funds were used to help provide food boxes in Anson County and we are truly grateful for this support!

The Winky Foundation



Auriga Polymers

Southern States Packaging Company

DONORS STEP UP FOR THOSE IN NEED IN SPARTANBURG COUNTY

One of the Food Bank's branches is located in Spartanburg serving Spartanburg, Cherokee and Union counties in the upstate of South Carolina. Thanks to several Spartanburg donors we were able to provide an entire tractor trailer load of food boxes to this branch to help serve these counties.

The Winky Foundation provided \$15,000, Lubrizon provided \$10,000, Auriga Polymers provided \$10,000 and Southern States Packing provided \$3,000. Collectively we used these funds to provide over 2,000 food boxes, an entire tractor trailer load.

Thanks to these wonderful donors for supporting our Spartanburg Branch!



Boxes, Boxes and More Boxes



ONE SC PROVIDES FUNDS FOR HIGH NEED AREAS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Thanks to a gift of \$76,000 from the ONE SC FUND, we were able to focus efforts on some of the highest need South Carolina counties we serve. Almost 4,000 food boxes were provided in Abbeville, Anderson, Pickens, Oconee, Cherokee, Greenwood and Lancaster counties.

We are so grateful for this support which helped feed thousands of families in need throughout the upstate of South Carolina!



CARDINAL INNOVATIONS HELPS PROVIDE BOXES IN SEVERAL NORTH CAROLINA COUNTIES

Thanks to our friends at Cardinal Innovations we were able to provide 1,000 food boxes to families in need in Stanly, Rowan, Union and Cabarrus counties in North Carolina. We are truly grateful for your support!

Food Bank Special Distributions

In 2019, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina acquired 5 new counties in upstate South Carolina including Abbeville, Anderson, Greenwood, Oconee and Pickens. Since the beginning of the pandemic, our Anderson branch has held numerous distributions at schools, churches, and the Salvation Army of Anderson County. They have been able to serve over 3,000 families and over 10,000 individuals. Some of these locations included New Spring Church, Alive Wesleyan Church, Belton-Honea Path High School, North Pointe Elementary School, Abbeville County DSS/Government Campus, and Salvation Army of Anderson County.



WELLS FARGO HOSTS FOOD PANTRIES TO HELP DURING COVID-19

Our friends at Wells Fargo have been sponsoring food distributions throughout the country to assist those impacted by COVID-19. In August, we hosted one of these distributions at the Wells Fargo location near Carowinds Boulevard, serving those in need in South Charlotte and York County in South Carolina.

During the distribution we served 324 households providing over 25,000 pounds of dry goods, fresh produce and meat. Thank you to Wells Fargo for caring about those in need in our region!



Food Bank Special Distributions

FOOD BANK HOSTS SPECIAL DISTRIBUTIONS AT MAIN FACILITY TO ASSIST THOSE IMPACTED BY COVID-19

With unprecedented need brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina has had to implement many new ideas and strategies to ensure everyone who needs help is able to access food. One of these strategies has been to distribute at the Food Bank's main facility on Spratt Street.

With the distribution held on our site, there is no chance of running out of food and we have been able to serve everyone who has attended. Families receive packed food boxes with dry items including protein, grains, canned vegetables and canned fruit. Families also receive fresh produce, meat, milk, dairy items such as cheese and eggs and whole grain breads.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina has been hosting these drive through distributions since the middle of June and they are continuing through the fall. We are averaging 400-500 families at each distribution and through August we have distributed over 400,000 pounds of healthy food.



Grocery Partner Highlight



Publix has supported Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina since they expanded into the Charlotte region several years ago. They have helped us purchase several trucks during this time and recently awarded us \$135,000 to purchase a new 24 foot refrigerated box truck for one of our branches. Since 2014 Publix has assisted us with the purchase of five trucks and a van.

As COVID-19 took shape, Publix realized that many of their produce and dairy farmers were seeing their buying partners dry up and were being forced to dump or plow over their crops. At the same time, food banks were experiencing substantial increases in need.

To bridge this gap, Publix implemented a program to purchase surplus produce and milk from farmers and deliver it directly to the food banks. As of August 31st, Publix had delivered more than 11 million pounds of produce and 500,000 gallons of milk to food banks throughout their footprint.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina has received over 1.6 million pounds of produce and over 100,000 gallons of milk. These items are healthy and nutritious and much needed by our neighbors facing hunger. Thank you Publix for your commitment during COVID-19 and year-round. We appreciate your support!



Special Gifts from Special Friends



MERANCAS FOUNDATION MAKES SPECIAL COVID-19 DONATION

Our friends at the Merancas Foundation have supported our Community Food Rescue operations for decades. This program rescues perishable foods that would otherwise be thrown away and delivers them free of charge to agencies that feed on site. Last year, this program rescued over 11 million pounds of food.

With COVID-19, the foundation wanted to do something to help those in need as a result of the pandemic. They recently donated \$150,000 which has helped us provide much needed food throughout our region.

We appreciate your ongoing and special support!



RAYTHEON TECHNOLOGIES DONATES \$149,000 TO HELP WITH COVID-19 RELIEF

Our friends at Raytheon Technologies recently donated \$149,000 to assist us with COVID-19.

These funds have been critical in helping us meet the increased needs caused by children missing school meals and families being hit by job hour reductions and layoffs.

Thank you so much for this generous donation that has helped us feed so many hungry children, seniors and families. We appreciate your support!



THANK YOU I-77 MOBILITY PARTNERS AND SUGAR CREEK CONSTRUCTION

We are so grateful for this recent donation of over \$67,000. Our friends at I-77 Mobility Partners and Sugar Creek Construction made this generous gift to help Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina purchase much needed food for those struggling to recover from the pandemic.

Gifts like this have been critical to our ability to keep up with the greatly increased requests for assistance. Thank you so much for your support!

DAVID TEPPER CHARITABLE FOUNDATION HELPS KEEP FOOD BANK BACKPACK PROGRAM MOVING

With COVID-19, we have been asked to provide tens of thousands of additional backpacks of food for children missing school meals. Working with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS), the Food Bank has been able to provide these additional backpacks that were distributed from March-August at school lunch sites every Friday.

These packs of food help children survive over the weekend when there may not be enough food to eat at home. Dave and Nicole Tepper have been tremendous supporters of food banks, especially Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina. Their support has been provided during normal times and now during the pandemic, they have stepped up with special gifts to help us feed hungry children.

Our Food Bank was fortunate to receive two gifts totaling almost \$180,000, all of which was used to expand our ability to provide backpacks of food. We are truly grateful for their support!



Special Gifts from Special Friends

FERROVIAL JUNTOS STEPS UP TO HELP FEED OUR COMMUNITY



Recently, we received a donation of \$67,000 from our friends at Ferrovial Juntos. The funds were designated to help us feed people impacted by COVID-19. As we have been met with so many requests for assistance, donors like this have been so important in helping us keep food boxes flowing to all 24 counties in our region.

We are so grateful for your support!

ENTERPRISE DONATES \$69,500 TO HELP FOOD BANK WEATHER COVID-19



Enterprise has been an amazing supporter of Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina for many years. As we struggled to provide enough food boxes for those in need, Enterprise stepped up with an amazing donation of \$69,500. This was tremendously helpful in purchasing much needed food.

Thank you Enterprise for your support and especially for helping us through this challenging time!

ED AND CASEY HUI PROVIDE MATCH OPPORTUNITY FOR FOOD BOXES



Our friends, Ed and Casey, contacted Second Harvest Food Bank to see how they could assist us during COVID-19. They wanted to make a donation to help us provide food boxes. And to help even more, they decided to allow us to use their donation as part of a match challenge. Ed and Casey offered to donate up to \$25,000 if we could raise \$25,000.

Thanks to our generous community and to Ed and Casey, we met the match which provided us \$50,000 to use for food boxes for those in need. We are so grateful to the Huis for this tremendous support.

Special Gifts from Special Friends



MOMENTS OF HOPE CHURCH SUPPORTS SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

Our friends at Moments of Hope Church reached out to see how they could help our community during the pandemic. The church wanted to do as much as possible to be sure

people in our region who were hungry were able to access food.

They decided to help Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina with operating expenses to help us keep our trucks on the road, our warehouses running, buy much needed supplies, and similar expenses. Moments of Hope provided a huge amount of hope to the Food Bank and those we serve with their donation of \$200,000. They sent \$50,000 a month for four months.

We are tremendously grateful for their support during this time of unprecedented need. Thank you so much for giving hope to so many in our community who are struggling!



NORTH CAROLINA STATE EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION DONATES TO FOOD BANKS

The State Employees Credit Union (SECU) in North Carolina has supported the efforts of the North Carolina Food Banks for several years. They have generously donated during regular times and times of disaster to ensure people throughout the state are able to access the food they need.

SECU recently donated 2 million dollars to the North Carolina Food Banks and Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina received almost \$377,000 from this gift. These funds helped us purchase much needed food for our 14 counties in North Carolina.

Thank you SECU for everything you do to help end hunger in North Carolina!

Special Gifts from Special Friends



THE DUKE ENDOWMENT

DUKE ENDOWMENT STEPS UP TO HELP FOOD BANKS IN THE CAROLINAS

Our friends at The Duke Endowment have stepped up to assist all of the food banks in the two Carolinas in a major way as we struggle to deal with the effects of COVID-19. They donated a total of 3.3 million dollars through our two state association, Feeding the Carolinas, that was in turn divided among the ten food banks across both states.

We were fortunate here in Charlotte to receive just over \$550,000, which has helped with food purchase for all of our counties as well as with operating increases associated with the pandemic. We are so grateful to everyone at The Duke Endowment for their tremendous support!

IAG Capital Partners

IAG CAPITAL PARTNERS HELP FOOD BANKS AND FARMERS

Joel Whitley and his partners and business friends wanted to find a way to help both food banks and local farmers who were suffering as a result of COVID-19. They worked with farmers across several states who found themselves with no place to sell their crops as a result of the pandemic.

Joel and his business partners raised funds to purchase produce loads from these farmers and then send these loads to food banks to help feed those in need. For several months this summer they provided a tremendous mix of full tractor trailer loads of produce including corn, broccoli and peaches. Some of the tractor trailer loads came from Titan Farms, a great supporter of Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina year-round.

What a great idea to help both our farmers and those who are hungry in our communities. Thank you IAG Capital Partners!!

Grocery Store Partner Highlight



Walmart has been one of the Food Bank's largest food and non-food donors for many years. They have also supported Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina with many special events including Santa Express and in-store promotions.

They have been tremendous supporters through COVID-19 donating many loads of produce, meat, dairy and dry products through their distribution centers. Recently, they announced that they would be supporting all of the food banks in the nation with an in store register campaign. This campaign will end on September 30th. While exact results of what will be raised nationally and in our region are not yet known, we know based on past experience that this will be a significant gift.

Thank you to Walmart for their support as we try to keep everyone fed during a very challenging time!

Invisible Paw Prints, Inc

For many of our seniors their pets are their only companions. As so many seniors have been forced to quarantine for safety, pets have become even more important.

Thanks to Rob Kortus, CEO and Founder of Invisible Paw Prints, over 80 bags of pet food were donated to seniors in our region. Thank you so much for your support!



Thank You CRVA and National Guard



CONVENTION CENTER AND NATIONAL GUARD STEP UP TO HELP SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF METROLINA PACK HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF FOOD BOXES

As we began to understand the impact that COVID-19 was going to have on the operations of the Food Bank, we knew we were going to have to make some significant changes in operations to keep up with the escalating demand for food. Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina has one of the smallest staffs of any large food bank in the nation - we pride ourselves on being very efficient and using every donor dollar wisely.

One of the reasons we are able to be so efficient is because we have so many wonderful volunteers. With COVID-19 in full force, we started to see a real decline in our volunteer numbers as retirees were staying safely at home and corporate groups were restricting employees from regular volunteer opportunities as many began working from home.

We are also very space challenged at the Food Bank and the distancing that has become necessary with volunteer groups was making it extremely challenging to keep up with the demand for food boxes. We had less volunteers and not enough space.

This is where the Charlotte Convention Center emerged as a lifesaver for our box packing operation. With events being canceled, they had space available and loaned us one of their largest exhibit halls that enabled us to use multiple groups of 10 volunteers each at the same time. We suddenly had all the space we needed to get packing done.

We also were very fortunate to have the National Guard step in and help us pack and transport products in their trucks for several months. With the new found space and help from the National Guard, we were able to crank out around 15,000 boxes per week, keeping our agencies in a constant supply of food boxes.

This is what happens when neighbors come together and work to help each other. Anything is possible when good people join forces and we could not be more grateful to the Convention Center and the National Guard for being there when our community and food bank needed them the most.



“One of the most heartwarming things I get to experience as the leader at Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina is when children step up to help other children. These young people are the ones that will eventually end hunger in our nation and it is amazing to see their ingenuity and hard work as they assist us in making sure children are fed in our region. We are sure you will enjoy the stories below which are wonderful examples of Kids Helping Kids!” - **Kay Carter, CEO**



EVERYONE LOVES GIRL SCOUT COOKIES!

The Girl Scouts Hornets Nest Council has supported Second Harvest Food Bank for many years through their annual food drive. These young ladies do a great job with the drive growing their numbers every year.

One of the major fundraisers for the Girls Scouts is their annual cookie sale. Everyone has their favorite type of Girl Scout cookie (our CEO loves the Thin Mints and she freezes them). This year's sale was successful, but in the end the troop had 9,300 boxes of cookies left over.

They donated these to Second Harvest Food Bank and we were able to include every single package in one of our food boxes. What a wonderful surprise for the child or family opening that food box to find a box of cookies. Many thanks to all of the young ladies and their troop leaders for bringing smiles to so many faces.



EMILY WELBORNE PAINTS PICTURES FOR SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK OF METROLINA

While staying home during COVID-19, Emily, an 8th grader at Southwest Middle School, decided to make use of her time to help other kids. Emily likes to paint landscapes and decided to try her hand at selling these to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank.

So far, Emily has sold dozens of paintings raising \$1,530 to help the Food Bank feed hungry children.

Emily and her parents came by to visit us recently and we discovered that not only can she paint, she is also a delight to be around.

Thanks to Emily and her mom and dad for thinking about our neighbors in need!

LEMONADE STAND HELPS FEED HUNGRY CHILDREN

We recently received a donation with two checks and a letter enclosed. William and Erin Barron included the following note in with their donation:

“Dear 2nd Harvest,

My daughter and her friends recently had a lemonade stand fundraiser and I’m very proud to send you this donation. Thank you for the lifesaving work you are doing, especially now in these difficult days!”

The Barrons

P.S. Her grandparents chipped in too :)



Thanks so much to the Barron family and friends for holding this fundraiser, which raised \$265 (that’s a lot of lemonade). We will use those dollars to feed hungry children!



Katelyn Hartwick Starts A Business

Katelyn Hartwick is the daughter of a wonderful Food Bank supporter, Chef Blake Hartwick of Bonterra Restaurant. Katelyn and her stepmom Heather wanted to do something to help feed children during COVID-19. They decided to start their own business making bracelets and named the business “The Bead Girls.”

Katelyn started making beautiful multicolored bracelets with all kinds of catchy slogans and words on them. She sells these for \$5 each with all proceeds benefiting the Food Bank’s child hunger programs. When our CEO Kay Carter found out about this, she asked Katelyn to make 70 bracelets, one for each staff member at Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina.

Katelyn included all of our favorite words at the Food Bank: End Hunger, Compassion, Humility, Diversity, Kindness, Respect, and Tolerance. Our staff is proudly sporting these. So far Katelyn has raised \$875 to help feed hungry kids.

Katelyn would be happy to make you a bracelet. If you would like to be connected to Katelyn, contact Donna Ragan at dragan@secondharvest.org. Thanks to Katelyn, Heather and Blake for all of your support!!

Grocery Partner Highlight



Our friends at Southeastern Grocers (parent company for BILO) have long supported Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina through their in-store donation programs and through their foundation. We want to thank them for stepping up to assist us with COVID-19 as well.

Southeastern provided both a financial donation and donated canned and boxed goods at a time when we really needed them. Thanks so much for your support!

Chef Bruce Moffett Virtual Cooking School



On May 4th and June 18th, Chef Bruce Moffett partnered with Harris Teeter, Procter & Gamble and Campbell Soup Company to support frontline workers. He hosted two online cooking demonstrations and answered questions from viewers afterwards. As part of the program, they also donated Harris Teeter and Moffett Restaurant Group gift cards and cookbooks to frontline workers in the Charlotte area including those at Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina.

Pay What You Can Service Industry Night



A huge thank you to our wonderful friends from The Asbury, H.A. Pigsmith's Southern Science, Barrister's at The Esquire Hotel, and Peppervine for their donation of \$2,100 for COVID-19 relief. They held a fundraiser for a "Pay What You Can Service Industry Night" for 300 people.

WBTV and WCCB-TV Music Telethons



TELEVISION STATIONS TEAM UP WITH LOCAL ARTISTS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

On April 18, 2020, WBTV sponsored “Singing for their Supper,” an event featuring local musicians. WCCB sponsored “Music For Meals: A Carolina Together Event,” on May 16, 2020. Each of these amazing nights featured an array of local talent. A full list of the performers is shown below.

With COVID-19 in full swing many of these musicians have been quarantined at home unable to perform as they normally would. In spite of their hardships, they all took the time to help raise funds to meet the many needs COVID-19 has thrown at us. Please take the time to check out all of this local talent. They are truly amazing.

Special thanks to Maureen O’Boyle, Morgan Fogarty and Jon Wilson for making these events possible and hosting. Collectively the events raised over \$20,000 to help Second Harvest Food Bank provide food boxes for our neighbors in need.

Arsena Schroeder
Brit Drozda
Charles Kelley of Lady Antebellum
Chris Barron of Spin Doctors
Dae-Lee
Edwin McCain
Emily Sage
Glen Phillips of Toad the Wet Sprocket
Jason Jet
Jimmy Wayne

Joe Stevenson
Josh Kelley
Ken Block & Drew Copeland of Sister Hazel
Kristian Bush of Sugarland
Patrick Davis
Quinton Gibson
Rudy
Scotty McCreery
Shawn Mullins
Shelby J

T. Dubya
The Hamiltones
Time Sawyer / Sam Taylor
Tommy DeCarlo
Tony Arreaza

Kristen Hampton



FACEBOOK LIVE VIDEO STAR KRISTEN HAMPTON ENCOURAGES FOLLOWERS TO DONATE TO SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK

Kristen Hampton, who started “The Good News” on WBTV and then became a viral facebook star, wanted to help the community during COVID-19. She challenged her followers, all 117,000 of them, to make special donations to help us pack food boxes. You can follow her on Facebook @KristenHamptonGoodNews.

Kristen set a goal to raise \$15,000 and she surpassed that. Thanks to Kristen and all of her followers who donated, thousands of families were fed in our region!

Howard Levine Match



COVID-19 FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE FROM HOWARD LEVINE

Howard Levine, former CEO of Family Dollar, and one of the Food Bank's biggest supporters, has made it possible for us to conduct a fundraising challenge. Howard is matching every dollar we raise between now and the end of the year, up to \$500,000.

As we continue to plow through COVID-19 and all of its challenges, please remember that this is a marathon event, not a sprint. Many children are still out of school and missing meals, many seniors are still quarantined and cannot go to meal sites, and so many of our neighbors are unemployed. It is critical that we continue to help ensure that everyone is fed during this unprecedented time.

We are so grateful to Howard for his continuing support and would encourage everyone reading this newsletter to please donate and help us get to the match goal. Please also forward this on to friends. What a wonderful way to help double the number of hungry children, seniors, veterans and families we can feed.

Sort-A-Rama Goes Virtual



For the past several years, Second Harvest Food Bank and many of our key partners have participated in a three hour volunteer event called Sort-A-Rama. During this event, hundreds of volunteers packaged dry rice and beans into one pound sizes perfect for delivery to our emergency pantry partners. This event leading into summer when hunger is higher than normal, has been something we all looked forward to every year.

With COVID-19 we quickly realized that we would not be able to safely hold the event the way we had in the past. We called upon our key partners (see below) and asked for permission to use their sponsor dollars to purchase rice and dry beans already packaged for use in COVID-19 food boxes.

Every single partner said yes which is a tremendous testament to the companies in our community that are helping us battle hunger every day. We wanted to thank them and created this visual showing how many pallets of food they helped us purchase. We are looking forward to the day we can be back together. In the meantime, thank you all for caring about those in need throughout our region!





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SAVE THE DATE:

March 26, 2021

at the Charlotte Convention Center