BLESSINGS

A newsletter for the supporters of Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina



Kay's Message



As many of you know by now, I often use my message to thank donors for helping us continue the important work of feeding hungry families, seniors, children and pets in our community. This holiday issue of Blessings is full of amazing stories of our corporate donors, our volunteers, children helping to feed children, places of worship, and individuals and groups throughout our 19 counties that are working together to make sure our neighbors have enough to eat.

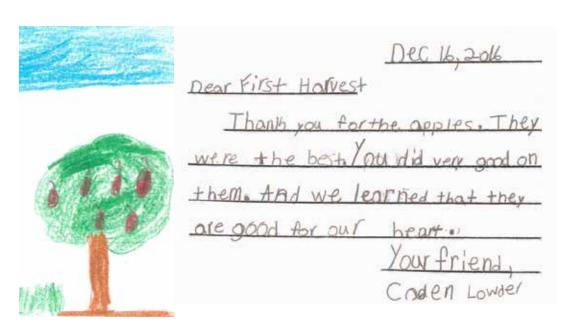
After 13 years of managing Second Harvest, you might think that I have encountered almost everything there is to encounter. That never seems to be the case. Every holiday season I am amazed at both the generosity of our supporters and the gratitude of those we help.

Pages 8-10 of this issue feature a story about this year's Santa Express Event. Powered by Walmart, this event assisted 34 high-poverty elementary schools in 15 different counties over the two weeks leading up to Christmas. Bags of fruit, toothbrushes and toothpaste, school supplies, uniforms, socks and underwear made the holidays brighter for almost 17,000 at-risk students.

The photos say it all but I thought you might enjoy a few of the hundreds of letters we received from the children who were helped by this amazing effort. No words that I write could possibly be more effective at convincing us to stay the course and to keep on giving.

Thanks to Walmart and thanks to each of you for your efforts to help us end hunger in our region. Clearly your support means the world to these children.

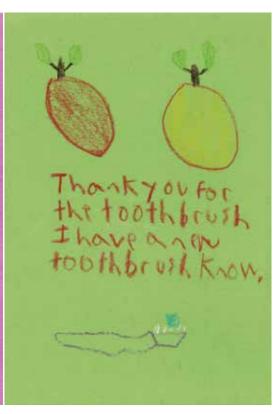
Kay Carte





Kay's Message

For all that you do
you do it with love
I just want to say
Thank you. You make
my life better thank you
Did you know that
ever time you give you
make a child life hoppy
better and healty Never
Stop love you.



Markhia Burch

December 16,2016

Dear Second Harvest Bunk and
Walt-Mart a Son to Expression in him went thank governot hever of thing that you provide us at Morren Ementary
School. We thank you for your kindness greatfulness, and also your love. We love you and we wish you a Herry Christman and a Happy wew year!

Thank you again,

Ma'lkhia Burch



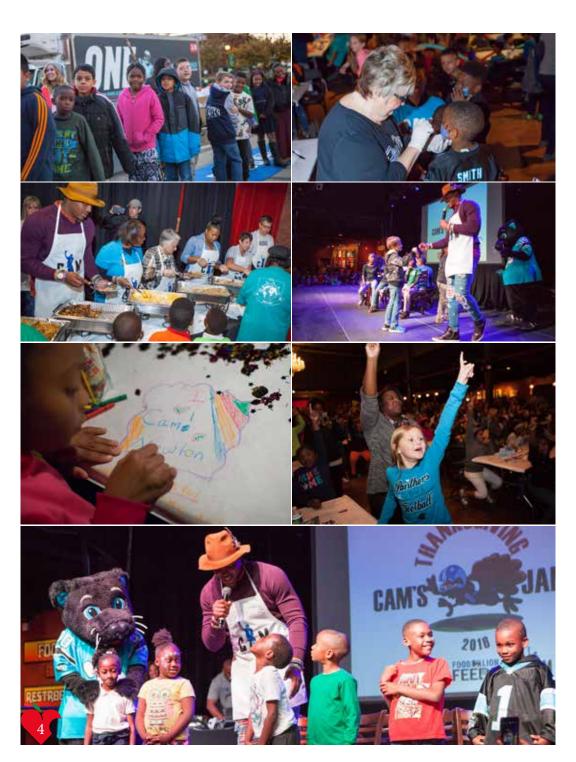
Cam Jam





On November 21, 2016, Cam Newton and his family partnered with Food Lion Feeds and Second Harvest to provide a hot Thanksgiving meal to over 800 area children in need. The children came from Second Harvest Kids Cafe sites throughout our 19-county region.

Hosted by The Fillmore, the event featured a DJ, Sir Purr, the Food Lion mascot, face painters and balloon artists. Following the dinner served by Cam and his parents, each child received a turkey breast, fresh produce and everything needed for a complete Thanksgiving meal to take home. Many thanks to Cam, his family, the Cam Newton Foundation and Food Lion Feeds for making Thanksgiving so special for so many children.



Santa Cam's "Surprise Sleigh"

On December 13, 2016, Cam Newton and his family rode in a "Sleigh" of SUVs through the Charlotte Community to donate money and food, hand out gifts, play games with area school kids and sing Christmas carols for his 3rd annual Santa Cam's Surprise Sleigh. This year's event benefited four different Second Harvest Food Bank partner agencies. Special thanks to Food Lion Feeds for their amazing support of this event.

On his first stop at Barringer Academic Center, Newton presented a \$30,000 check to fund the school's backpack program after playing games with the kids. The next stop was Silver Mount Emergency Food Pantry, where Cam unloaded a truck full of \$10,000 worth of freezers, food, toiletries and other supplies. Next up was Bethlehem Center where Newton and his volunteers distributed bags of school supplies, games and toys to children at this Kids Cafe site. Last on the sleigh ride was a dinner at McCormick & Schmick's for families from a Child's Place. Families were treated to Food Lion gift cards and children went on a shopping spree at Dick's Sporting Goods.

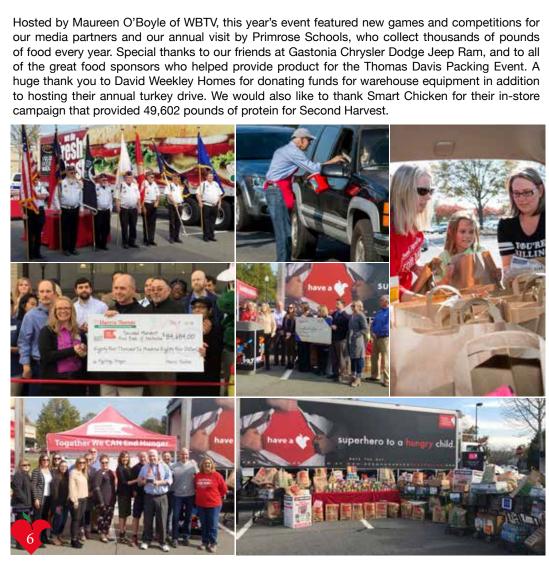
Thank you Cam and Food Lion Feeds for continuing to show your support for our community!



Harvest Feast



The 14th annual Harvest Feast Marathon sponsored by Harris Teeter and WRFX was held on the two weekends leading up to Thanksgiving. The on-site food drive held at the Harris Teeter in South Charlotte's Stonecrest Shopping Center is one of the food bank's largest drives of the year annually collecting over 100,000 pounds to help feed the hungry in our region. Customers purchased almost \$85,000 in scan cards at local Harris Teeter stores to benefit the food bank.



Thomas Davis Packing Event

Thomas and Kelly Davis have been tremendous supporters of feeding the hungry in our community for a decade. On November 8th, Thomas, Kelly and their Panther friends converged on Second Harvest to pack 2,000 Thanksgiving bags for people in need in our region. Harris Teeter and their vendors provide all of the food for the bags and the Panthers provide the muscle. In addition to these holiday meal bags, Titan Farms donated 21,000 bell peppers to provide fresh produce to each family. This year's group of players included Thomas Davis, Luke Kuechly, A.J. Klein, Vernon Butler, David Mayo and Michael Griffin along with a host of guests.



Santa Express Powered by Walmart





On December 5, 2016, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina and Walmart announced the 2nd annual "Santa Express." For over two weeks leading up to Christmas, Second Harvest trucks delivered fresh fruit, hygiene items, socks, uniforms and school supplies to 34 different high-poverty elementary schools in 15 different counties.

The kick-off press conference was held at Walmart on East Independence Boulevard and the first stop followed at Reedy Creek Elementary School. Walmart also announced a gift of \$111,000 to Second Harvest to help construct new refrigerators and freezers that will enable us to provide more produce, meat and dairy. With over 188,000 children in our region living in poverty, the support of Walmart is critical to helping meet their basic needs. By the time Santa Express ended on December 16th, the following had been accomplished:

- Visited 15 different counties in North and South Carolina
- Assisted 34 high-poverty elementary schools in the region
- Helped provide a bag of apples and a toothbrush/toothpaste kit for almost 17,000 at-risk elementary school students
- Delivered uniforms, school supplies, socks and underwear to each school
- Delivered 102,290 pounds throughout the two weeks of Santa Express

Plans are already underway for the 2017 Santa Express. We promise it will be even bigger and better than the 2016 event!







Santa Express Powered by Walmart



Santa Express Powered by Walmart



Walmart = Healthy Food Options





Walmart held a produce distribution event on September 26th for families at Lawrence Orr Elementary. Fresh produce, meat and dairy items represent over one-third of all products distributed by the Food Bank and these are items people in poverty can least afford, but are most needed to stay healthy. The produce market at Lawrence Orr Elementary is an example of healthy food options the Food Bank offers children and their families in our service territory. Produce for the market was donated by Walmart. Over 5,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables were distributed to 250 families.



SC Mobile Grant Award



Thanks to Walmart, Second Harvest will be able to expand our school-based mobile pantry program into York County, SC. The \$28,500 grant will fund eight school-based mobiles to be held at high-poverty elementary schools in Rock Hill, Clover, York and Fort Mill.

Each mobile will provide staple items, produce, meat, dairy and whole grain breads to approximately 200 families. In York County, there are 11,740 children living at or below the poverty level. This represents 19% of the child population in the county.

Cornucopia



FEEDS

On November 17, 2016, the entire Charlotte Hornets team and coaching staff, along with senior executives from Food Lion, packed and distributed 1,000 Thanksgiving boxes just in time for the holidays. Food Lion Feeds provided the turkeys and all of the trimmings for the special boxes with additional donations from Coca-Cola. Since 2014, the Hornets and Food Lion collectively have provided more than 1 million meals to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina and our neighbors in need.



Cornucopia













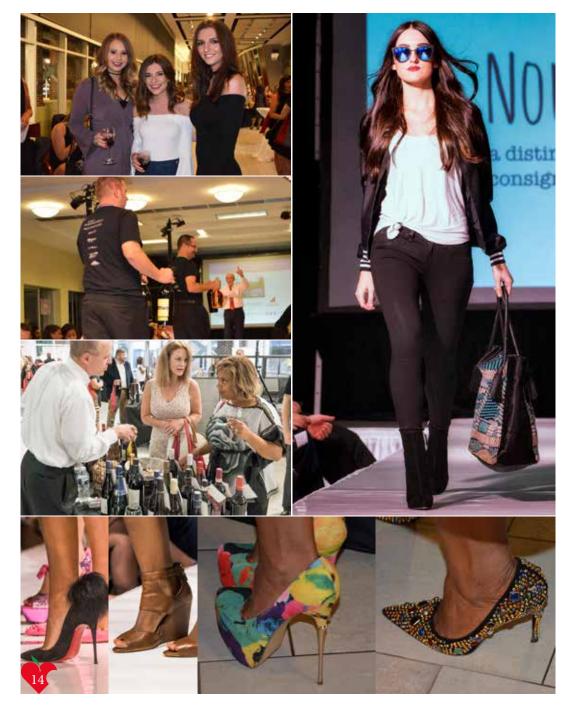


Wine, Women & Shoes



Benefiting Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina

Felix Sabates Mercedes-Benz of South Charlotte was the site for the fourth annual Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina's Wine, Women and Shoes Event. Special thanks go out to Mercedes and Whole Foods who were our major sponsors this year. Attendees were treated to an evening of great wine, great shopping and, of course, our Best-in-Shoe competition and our Fashion Show produced by Effie Loukas. This year's event was very successful raising over \$100,000 for our child hunger programs. Thanks also to Stephanie Maxwell from WSOC-TV for hosting the event.



Wine, Women & Shoes

Felix Sabates Mercedes-Benz of South Charlotte













































Publix Truck Donation



In August, Publix announced a \$5,000,000 donation to Feeding America food banks and partner agencies. Second Harvest Food Bank was honored to receive \$200,000 that will go towards purchasing a new refrigerated truck and van. This is huge for us, because a new truck and van means we can pick up and distribute more food across the Metrolina region!



Publix "Food For Sharing"



Food for Sharing provides an opportunity for Publix customers to continue showing they care by donating to those less fortunate. In the weeks leading up to major holidays, donation cards, representing three levels of giving, are made available to Publix customers at the checkout. Once the customer has selected one of three recipes, the cashier scans the card and the amount is added to the customer's total order. The funds raised at the registers are converted to most needed products for food banks across the nation.

Thanks to the amazing customers at Publix, Second Harvest Food Bank was able to receive 26 pallets of food just in time for the holidays.





Food Lion Truck Donation Announcement

FOOD #5 LION FEEDS

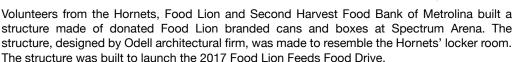
Consistent with Food Lion's focus on eliminating hunger in its local communities through Food Lion Feeds, the grocer has donated a mobile food pantry truck, valued at over \$100,000 or the equivalent of more than 1 million meals, to Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina. The innovative vehicle will bring food to places where there is a need throughout the 19 counties served by the food bank, from schools, to disaster locations, to communities without access to fresh, healthy food.

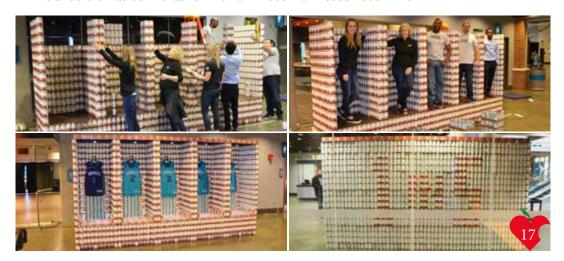


Swarm to Serve









Smithfield Helping Hungry Homes





On October 6, 2016, Smithfield's Helping Hungry Homes initiative donated 80,000 pounds of protein to Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina in partnership with Food Lion and Richard Petty. We are thankful for the partnership with Smithfield and Food Lion and this wonderful donation of protein to help families throughout the Metrolina area.





Hunger Action Month



September is Hunger Action Month and Second Harvest Food Bank and Feeding America hosted many events to draw attention to this critical issue. Hunger Action Month is designed to mobilize the public to take action on the issue of hunger, and to join the movement to help end hunger. Check out some of our Hunger Action Month activities below.





Titan Peaches and Harris Teeter partnered again in 2016 for their fourth annual "Peaches with a Purpose" campaign. This year's donation took place at Second Harvest Food Bank on September 1st. Many thanks to these great partners for donating approximately 18,000 pounds of fresh peaches. These peaches ended up in the hands of at-risk elementary school students in our region as well as in emergency pantries.







Highlighting their partnership called "Feed the Planet," Electrolux assembled 2,500 backpacks on September 15, 2016. The backpacks filled with food were distributed to at-risk elementary schools in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.



Red Classic leadership assembled 1,008 backpacks on September 21, 2016 filled with much needed food items. These backpacks were given to at-risk elementary school students throughout our service region.







Coca-Cola equipment managers in Charlotte gathered together on September 27, 2016 to assemble 300 backpacks for Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina. We also appreciate Coca-Cola for purchasing and donating all of the food and backpacks for this event.

Novant Health Thanksgiving Day Parade



FOOD FALION FEEDS

Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina was honored again this year to be the official charity of the Novant Health Thanksgiving Day Parade. This is one of the most amazing events held in Charlotte and in partnership with Food Lion and Center City Partners, the food bank not only participates but gets to help feed families as well. With the assistance of Food Lion and Compass Group, Second Harvest was able to provide turkeys and all the fixings to 500 local families that otherwise would not have had a Thanksgiving Day meal.



Turkey Time





This year's annual Street Turkeys event on November 23, 2016 was the 14th annual drive sponsored by Sports Radio 610 WFNZ. Turkeys, canned goods and funds were collected all day at The Dog House located at the corner of Mint and Morehead Streets. Special thanks to Food Lion Feeds and to the Charlotte Hornets for their generous donation of turkeys! This year's event raised \$12,000, over 1,000 turkeys and 10,000 pounds of food to benefit Second Harvest and our partner emergency pantry Loaves and Fishes.





David Weekley Homes CALATLANTIC





Three home builders combined their efforts in November to collect frozen turkeys and funds to help neighbors in need for the holidays. David Weekley Homes has supported Second Harvest for over a decade and this year they invited their friends at CalAtlantic Homes and Nest Homes to join them in collecting turkeys, food and funds. The groups working together raised the equivalent of 113,147 pounds. In addition David Weekley Homes Foundation provided an \$8,000 gift to support the food bank.









Steve Harvey Annual Turkey Giveaway Many thanks to Steve Harvey and V101.9 for

Many thanks to Steve Harvey and V101.9 for providing hundreds of turkey vouchers to Second Harvest. Each year this enables the food bank to help provide Thanksgiving meals to those in need in our community.



Every Tuesday is Giving Tuesday with Bank of America. They presented Second Harvest with an \$85,000 check on November 29, 2016 for our child hunger initiatives and to help with our building expansion. The Bank's commitment runs much deeper than their most recent financial contribution. Annually, they provide more volunteer hours than any other group and they support our special events and host annual food drives. We are grateful for the support of Bank of America as we work to end child hunger in our community.









Perdue Farms made a 10,000-pound donation of chicken to Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina on October 11, 2016. Some of the meat donated was used that afternoon to kick off the school-based mobile pantry program in Cabarrus County at Winecoff Elementary in Concord. The program is being funded by a \$10,000 donation from the Arthur W. Perdue Foundation, the charitable giving arm of Perdue Farms. Perdue associates volunteered at the pantry.









In October, the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation announced one of the nation's largest donations aimed at fighting hunger. The program called "Fill Your Tank" celebrated the company's 60th anniversary by providing \$60 million to help address food insecurity.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina received \$71,000 as part of a larger gift of \$2.5 million to Feeding America. Many thanks to our friends at Enterprise for this amazing gift.





Annually, Second Harvest provides almost three million pounds of food to agencies in Gaston County through our branch site in Dallas and our main site in Charlotte. Recently, the Community Foundation of Gaston County donated \$25,000 to support our efforts. We are so grateful for their donation!





For the past several years Pet Paradise has hosted our largest annual Pet Food Drive. This year all three of their sites including Charlotte Airport, Lake Norman and Matthews participated, collectively donating 22,684 pounds. This was their largest drive yet and required two Second Harvest trucks to carry all the food back to our warehouse. Thanks for helping us feed hungry pets.







Compass Group hosted a client summit meeting and wanted to include a community service aspect to bring awareness to child hunger. Donations were made by Compass and various partners totaling \$25,000. We are grateful to Compass Group for their support.

LAND O'LAKES, INC.

The Land O'Lakes First Run Program has made over 100 donations since it was established in 2010. The program is committed to donating truckloads of fresh product year round, specifically to food banks to help alleviate hunger nationwide. On December 14, 2016, Land O'Lakes donated 40,000 pounds to Second Harvest Food Bank.





Many thanks to MapAnything for their donation to Second Harvest Food Bank in November. The company donated \$13,533 to help the food bank end hunger in our region. MapAnything also volunteered on November 1st, packing 11,170 meals and 13,000 pounds of boxed whole grain breads.







The Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation has supported the efforts of Second Harvest Food Bank's mobile pantry program for many years. The mobile pantry program delivers up to 10,000 pounds of food per trip to areas in our region that are more rural. Recently, Sisters of Mercy announced a gift of \$35,000 to help the food bank provide additional mobile pantries in Gaston, Union and Rutherford Counties in North Carolina and York County in South Carolina.

Second Harvest Food Bank supports 142 partner agencies, annually distributing over 9 million pounds in these four counties. In the area supported by the grant, almost 111,000 people live in poverty including 46,000 children and seniors.



Thanks to our friends at TJ Maxx, Marshalls and HomeGoods for hosting a recent in-store campaign that resulted in an \$11,000 donation to Second Harvest. In addition to the funds that were raised through donations by customers in their stores, the foundation also donated \$7,500. These funds will be used to support child hunger programs throughout our region.

Surlington

Burlington Stores, a leading national off-price retailer, opened a brand new store in Charlotte, NC, located in the Belgate Shopping Center at 8325 Ikea Boulevard, on Friday, September 16, 2016. On this date, the retailer held its ribbon cutting ceremony to celebrate jobs, community, and of course, shopping. Burlington Gives Back, hosted in partnership with K.I.D.S./Fashion Delivers, donated new merchandise to Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina which supplies food and grocery items to charitable agencies that assist people in need.

The store also participated in the 10th annual "Warm Coats and Warm Hearts" coat drive during the month of November. This drive provided much needed coats for children in need in our community leading into the winter months.



Southern State of Mind









Southern Tier Brewing Company and Sugar Creek Brewing Company joined forces on a family friendly event to benefit Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina. The first two hundred 16 oz. four packs were released at the Southern State of Mind release party on October 15, 2016. The event included the exclusive new brew, live music, a chance to meet the brewers, a Southern Tier beer garden, finger-licking southern BBQ, a family-friendly corn maze, bobbing for apples, free line dancing lessons and more! Thanks to both breweries for donating a portion of all proceeds from this beer to Second Harvest Food Bank where \$1 provides seven pounds of food for thousands of families in need.



Salvation Army Christmas Distribution



This year, more than 5,000 families in need registered for Christmas assistance at Salvation Army. This represented more than 10,450 children. Many of these families had parents who lost jobs, were experiencing unexpected medical bills, had lost homes, and, most importantly, lost hope. Second Harvest Food Bank, with the help of many volunteers, packed and distributed a box of assorted foods and a turkey to every family that registered for Christmas assistance.



Kids Corner

Davis Early

After Julie talked to her children about giving back to those in need, four-year-old Davis decided he would do some shopping in their pantry at home and share his favorite items with someone in need. He was most excited about sharing his bag of sweet treats. Thanks Davis for giving back!





Primrose School Donation

Every November the children at Primrose Preschool complete chores at home to earn money to donate to Primrose Schools' Second Harvest. Throughout the month they learn about the importance of sharing with others and helping those in need. This year the children earned \$825 with an additional \$175 raised through the sale of donated school uniforms. What a valuable lesson to teach our children!

Castle of Cans

The Susan L. Coleman Castle of Cans is a county-wide food drive in Catawba County where over 16 schools, businesses and churches collect food to help neighbors in need. Thanks to everyone who participated this year, the drive collected almost 17,000 pounds of food for Second Harvest agencies including The Corner Table Soup Kitchen, Eastern Catawba Cooperative Christian Ministry, Exodus Homes, The Family Care Center, Greater Hickory Cooperative Christian Ministry, Hickory Soup Kitchen and The Salvation Army of Hickory. Special thanks to Food Lion for their donation and to the Boy Scouts for building the castle!





Harris Road Middle

Members of the Harris Road Middle School Beta Club organized and ran the "Harris Road Harvest" on November 16, 2016, where more than 350 people from the school and community attended to play games, eat, and watch a movie. The Beta Club raised \$1,750, which is the equivalent of 12,250 pounds of food. Thank you so much for your support!







Oaklawn Holiday Party



For the past several years, the staff at Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina have adopted the children at the Bethlehem Center Head Start at Oaklawn. Each year we provide hats and gloves, a book, a toy and a backpack full of school supplies to these children for the holidays. We love visiting the site and spending time in the classrooms as well as providing lunch for the kids.



Backpack Packing Events



This year Charlotte Christian School stepped up for their third annual backpack packing event. The students assembled 1,300 backpacks with food, along with books and toys. The students also collected more than 275 coats to give to the children. These backpacks were distributed to local elementary schools for children at risk of hunger over Christmas break.









On December 7, 2016, Hood Hargett packed 1,000 backpacks full of food at Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina. After packing backpacks, they walked 200 of the packs over to Crisis Assistance Ministry located next door to give to families during the holidays.









Each year Bank of America Stadium is home to the Belk Bowl, which features an ACC team competing with an SEC team. For the past three years, teams have worked in a trip to volunteer at the food bank while they are in town for the big game. On December 26, 2016, we were honored to have the entire teams and coaching staffs from Virginia Tech and Arkansas here at the food bank helping us pack 2,600 backpacks, every one of which will feed a hungry child in our region.





Many thanks to our friends at American Airlines for providing us with \$20,650 in AAdvantage miles. These can be used to raise funds at our silent and live auctions as well as for staff to attend conferences and trainings. We are truly grateful for their support.



For the second straight year our friends at COSTCO have donated \$20,000 in food to help us serve agencies that feed on-site or provide mobile meals. These agencies use the #10 cans and larger packaged products that COSTCO sells.

This year we are assisting Mooresville Soup Kitchen, Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen, Miracle Hill and Mobile Meals of Spartanburg County. Thanks to COSTCO for their amazing support!



We are truly grateful to our friends at TD Bank for recently providing us with a \$10,000 grant. These funds will help support our programs in Burke County, where 18,212 people live at or below the poverty level, representing 20.5% of the total population. Over 7,000 children and seniors are at risk of hunger in the county and thanks to TD Bank we will be able to serve many more of them.







For the past several years, Target has supported our efforts to provide fresh produce and school-based mobile pantries to some of Charlotte's highest poverty schools, including Albemarle Road and Shamrock Gardens Elementary Schools.

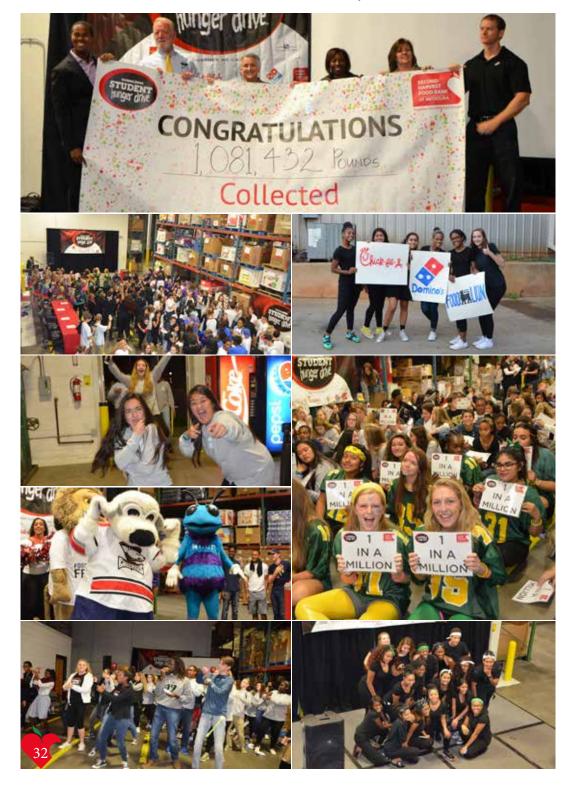
Recently, Target provided another \$80,000 in support of our efforts to end child hunger. Many thanks for everything Target does to help us feed children.



Student Hunger Drive



This year's Student Hunger Drive featured 16 high schools from Mecklenburg, Cabarrus and York counties competing to see which schools could raise the most pounds per student. The 2016 drive was the most successful yet, raising 288,633 total pounds for Second Harvest and our partner emergency pantries in these three counties. The pounds raised this year have brought the six-year total for this amazing youth-led drive to over one million pounds! Many thanks to the schools, the students and teachers as well as all of the wonderful sponsors for this year's drive. They have made a real difference in our community!



Student Hunger Drive











PRSA Pegasus Award



On November 2nd, PRSA Charlotte announced Kay Carter, CEO at Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina, as the winner of the 2016 Pegasus Award. This award is given to a respected leader who has made significant contributions to the betterment of the community, enhancing its reputation and prestige through the effective use of exceptional communication and public relations practices. Kay was recognized for her successful leadership of Second Harvest, which is providing food to more than 700 non-profit agencies serving the hungry in a 19-county region of North and South Carolina, and for her ability to leverage various public relations initiatives to raise awareness of this important issue in the greater Charlotte community.

Past Pegasus Award Winners

2015 Bruce Moffatt

2014 Pat Rodgers

2013 Carl Armato

2012 Dr. Daniel B. Murrev

2011 Bob Morgan

2010 Michael W. Smith

2009 Tim Newman

2008 Thomas (Tom) M. Bartholomy

2007 Dr. Peter Gorman

2006 Dr. Tony Zeiss

2005 Carol Hughes

2004 Ruth Shaw



Construction Progress

THANK YOU

to everyone who donated to our capital campaign!

Since our groundbreaking ceremony pictured below on April 25, 2016, phase one of the Second Harvest expansion project has been completed. Phase one, shown in the photos below, included the construction of new warehouse space and loading docks. In January, work began on phase two, which encompasses the expansion of our agency shopping floor, construction of our new volunteer center and renovation of our existing warehouse.



















Non-Profit Org. US Postage Paid Charlotte, NC Permit No. 2802

www.SecondHarvestMetrolina.org Address Service Requested 500-B Spratt Street Charlotte, NC 28206



April 22, 2017

For more information visit mooandbrewfest.com









