



GIVING THANKS



Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina
500-B Spratt Street, Charlotte, NC 28206 | 704.376.1785

SPRING | 2022

IT'S BEEN HARD HERE IN GREENWOOD

With eight children at home, there's no room to miss a paycheck, but that's exactly what happened to Mandy. "I missed over 300 hours of work because of COVID," she said. As a healthcare worker, "I was in and out of work. I was working at the prison, but if you come in contact with anybody with COVID, you had to be out of work for days regardless if you had symptoms or not," Mandy explained.

As a truck driver, her husband worked tirelessly to bring in as much as he could to make up for Mandy's lost income, but that was still not enough to feed their family. So, sacrifices had to be made. When asked if she missed any meals, Mandy replied, "I always let the kids eat and my husband eat, and then I eat what's left. We just didn't get to fix as much as we normally do. Let's put it that way."

Illness, job loss, disasters, and other unforeseen circumstances have threatened the health of thousands of children in our service area, like Mandy's family. Add summers without food support in schools, and even more children suffer tremendously because they don't know where their next meal is going to come from, if at all.

Because of your support, Mandy was able to get the food she and her family needed at a Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina food distribution at the YMCA in Greenwood, South Carolina.

With relief on her face, Mandy said, "This helps us tremendously. There are a lot of people missing work, a lot of people have had to be on unemployment. It's been hard here in Greenwood."

Thanks to your generosity, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina can supply much needed groceries to families like Mandy's through our mobile food distributions. To our donors, Mandy said, "I just want to make sure everybody knows that we're very appreciative of everything they're doing." Thank you for making a difference where it really counts.



“

This helps us
tremendously.”



A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

Frederick Douglass once said, “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.” When we invest in our children, we’re investing in the future of our communities, and nutritious food is fundamental to their success.

Thanks to you, we’re investing in our children with food programs that are helping us reach our number one goal, defeating child hunger in our region.

One in four children suffer from food insecurity in the Metrolina region. In many rural communities that number rises to one in three children. It’s hard to fathom that we could have that severe of a problem right here in the 24 counties we serve, but we do.

Food insecurity is when girls and boys wonder if, when, and where their next meal will come from. Sadly, children are the most vulnerable in our society. They don’t have control of the circumstances they’re born into, yet they bear the brunt of the economic challenges their parents may be facing.

It breaks my heart that over 168,000 children in our region are at risk of hunger every day. And that number increases every summer when children

don’t have access to school meals. If girls and boys can’t get healthy, nutritious food, it affects their well-being, contributing to diabetes, obesity, and other illnesses.

This isn’t a pretty picture, but your faithful support of Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina is beautiful. Your generosity sustains strategic initiatives for children, like Kids Café, Backpack Programs, and School-Based Mobile Pantries.

I can’t thank each of you enough. You are changing lives, changing communities, and helping to build strong children by investing in their future — today. I so appreciate your compassion and partnership. Thanks for all you do with us and for us!



Kay Carter,
CEO



Kay Carter
CEO

TEAMWORK AND SACRIFICE TO FEED THEIR CHILD

“

SOCKS and Second Harvest have definitely been there for us.”



BRIDGING THE GAP DURING ILLNESS, SURGERY, AND JOB LOSS

Clifford's wife has been ill and underwent major surgery. "Recovery is going to take probably two or three more months," he said. "So basically, I'm the only breadwinner right now."

Their two incomes were sufficient, but just one has put a huge burden on their ability to make ends meet. The stress of Clifford's wife's condition was compounded when he was laid off. "Well, I was without work for a few months because of the impact of COVID," he said.

Despite overwhelming challenges, Clifford never gave up. A repair technician by trade, he was determined to get back to work and take care of his wife. Even so, fear and insecurity were starting to chip away at Clifford's confidence and any hope that he could turn things around.

But thanks to your deep kindness, hope returned to Clifford when he learned about a food distribution that Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina was holding. Here he was able to get the food he and his wife urgently needed. "It helps out because it's less of our budget that we have to put for food, so we can use it for other expenses we have," he said. "This bridges the gap. It sure does."

Your generosity helps struggling families like Clifford and his wife get back on their feet, literally. With a huge relief, he said, "I'm finally kind of catching up a little bit." Thank you for making a big difference in so many lives. "Please keep donating," Clifford said. "Your funds are well used and it's getting to the people who really need it."



“

Please keep donating.”

What do you do when you can't feed your 2-year-old son? Alejandra's husband tries to get extra hours at work when they're available in his construction job. Unfortunately, COVID has kept that to a minimum. That's when despair could creep in. "He's donated plasma when we really needed the money. He's really done more than anybody has done for me my whole life and we work as a team to get things done. We work together to find a way to make money," Alejandra said.

Sometimes their teamwork means real sacrifice. "As long as my child eats, that's what matters to me," Alejandra said. "Me and my husband, we can go without but if he's good, we're good."

Resourcefulness and sacrifice are essential when things get tough. Sometimes, even that's not enough.

"At one point, it was really bad to where I had to go to Social Services and have bills paid and then come here to SOCKS, because I just didn't have enough in the house to feed us," she said.

Thanks to your compassion for young families like Alejandra's, they're able to get the groceries they desperately need through SOCKS Crisis Ministry, one of our agency partners in Gaston County.



"SOCKS is like, 'You need food. We're going to help you. Especially right now with COVID and stuff,'" Alejandra explains. "SOCKS and Second Harvest have definitely been there for us. Obviously, you guys have done a lot for families like mine and a lot of people that I know who have come here," she said.

Full of gratitude, Alejandra says to you who support Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina, "I would personally love to meet these people, honestly. I would love to meet every single one of them and tell them thank you, because there's been times when me and my husband were stressing about food in the house, and I come here and get what we need. I pray for people like them."

David & Claudia Dority (right) sort food with Pat Abercrombie.



“

Any opportunity to help, especially families with children, that's dear to our hearts.”

WE WANT TO DO ALL WE CAN

David and Claudia Dority met as teenagers. “We’ve been happily married for 50 years,” Claudia proclaimed. “And that’s a testament to her endurance,” David responded with a chuckle.

The Doritys are active volunteers for the Lions Club in Greenwood, South Carolina. They continually help separate and box food at our agency partner, the Salvation Army, as well as serve food at a local soup kitchen.

“Unfortunately, there’s a big hunger need in this area,” David said.

When asked why they spend so much of their time not only thinking about hunger, but doing something about it, he said, “The fact that we are able to help while we’re ‘young enough.’” They both laughed. “We’re, let’s say, over 70. While we’re able to do it, we want to do all that we can.”

“Well, it’s very consoling to us to know that we’ve helped,” Claudia said. “It’s kind of like that starfish you toss back in the ocean. Really, we just enjoy doing what we can for other people.”

“We realized, in the community, there are a lot of hungry people. People that can’t afford a good diet for one reason or another, whether they’re unemployed or physically unable to work and can’t,” David explains.

“Any opportunity to help, especially families with children, that’s dear to our hearts.”

“When a child doesn’t get the nourishment they need, they do very poorly in school because they’re just hungry,” Claudia said with a heavy heart. “They can’t focus on their studies,” David added.

To everyone who supports Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina so volunteers like the Doritys can get food to those who need it most, Claudia said, “It’s a wonderful investment on their part.”

David championed his wife’s words, “We appreciate what you all do, and I say that — on this side of the fence — you all do a lot of good, and we thank you for that.”

He continued, “Many may never see the ripple effect of what Second Harvest is doing and how they’re impacting so many homes and families. People lined up, waiting for a bag of food, and when they leave, they’ve got a smile on their face.” “And a little more security,” Claudia echoes.

“Matthew 25 talks about what you do for the least of these, and one of those things is feeding someone who’s hungry,” David said with conviction. “It’s putting wheels to that scripture.”

Thank you to all who support us with your time, talent, and treasures. Only together can we defeat hunger.

**SECOND
HARVEST
FOOD BANK
OF METROLINA**

Together We CAN End Hunger



CONTACT US

**SECOND HARVEST
FOOD BANK OF METROLINA**

500-B Spratt Street
Charlotte, NC 28206
704.376.1785

Stay up-to-date on all of our upcoming events by following **@shmetrolina** on



Bookmark our website at
SECONDHARVESTMETROLINA.ORG