

Giving Thanks

TOGETHER WE CAN END HUNGER

“

If it weren't for the kind people who donate money and food, there would be nothing for my family.”

— Pat



FEEDING FAMILIES IN NEED

Feeding hungry neighbors at Thanksgiving . . . what's better than that?

Your support of Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina is greatly needed and appreciated this time of year. Many of our neighbors struggle to put food on the table, and it can be especially disheartening when they have nothing to eat during the holidays. But thanks to you, local families can get a turkey and all the “fixings” to make a feast! Following are the stories of two people who discovered this firsthand at a mobile pantry at St. John's Baptist, a partner agency of Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina.

Pat's story:

Times are tough. It can be a struggle to buy medicine and food. I rely on what I get from Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina.

Their help is really great during the holidays. I can't afford to go out and buy

a turkey. Knowing I can get one from the food pantry makes my meal. Now I can feed not only my family, I can invite other friends and family to eat a meal at my house for the holidays.

We all gather at my house for Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve. Anyone that wants to can come. It doesn't have to be family members . . . it can be anybody. I tell my son, “If you know someone that needs something to eat, bring them. There will be plenty.”

If it weren't for the kind people who donate money and food, there would be nothing for my family. There would be a lot of kids and families going hungry if it weren't for the donations that come in. Although I come to the food bank, I still donate too. Every little bit helps. | CONT'D ON PAGE 2



Things are really bad right now . . . knowing I can turn to the food pantry for help is a blessing.”
— Margaret



Margaret's story:

Getting food from Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina means so much to me. It means not going hungry till the next month's check comes in.

Sometimes it means the difference between having a turkey for Thanksgiving or not having one. I try to save a little of this and a little of that to have it when Thanksgiving comes, but knowing help is available means a lot. There would be a lot of people hungry right now if it wasn't for a program like this. A lot of children would be going hungry.

Things are really bad right now. And knowing I can turn to the food pantry for help is a blessing. Your support is a real blessing. Thank you.



A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

What Thanksgiving Means to Me

When I think of Thanksgiving, I think of spending time with friends and family. Enjoying a big meal at a table surrounded by the people I love.

It makes me sad to think about our neighbors who can't sit down and enjoy a meal this Thanksgiving. Parents who are worried about how they're going to feed their kids over the holiday break. People who have nothing extra for a celebration and can't invite loved ones over because they have no food to serve.

The need for our services is really high right now. Any time kids are out of school, it's hard on parents because they can't rely on school-provided breakfasts, lunches or after-school programs. We try to help kids during the holidays by giving them extra backpacks of food to help them make it through the holidays without going hungry. We also help provide turkeys and other sides so people can celebrate with a holiday meal.

This Thanksgiving, I'm so grateful for friends like you and the work you do. Your gifts ensure that people can enjoy meals not only during the holidays, but all year long.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina can only serve hungry people in our community when we have these three things:

- 1 People who donate food
- 2 People who donate money
- 3 People who volunteer

As we enter the holiday season, I urge you to think about how you can help our neighbors who are struggling. Perhaps you can meet one, two or even all three of these needs. The only way we will end hunger in our community is by working together. Thank you for your continued support, and have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

With gratitude,

Kay Carter
Executive Director



LUNCH FOR LOUISE by Louise

Your support gives your elderly neighbors a home-cooked meal every day!

I came from Jacksonville, North Carolina, and I was amazed when I got here and saw all the freshly cooked food. They are good cooks and the food is great. They give us a new menu every day. That means a whole lot to me. I think other people in here enjoy it as much as I do.

I come in here and eat once a day — and I look forward to it every day. Since I started coming here, there aren't many days I miss. I enjoy eating, and I also help serve other people who come for food. I help people with wheelchairs and walkers who can't come through the line. I really enjoy coming here and serving others.

I'm so thankful for the people who support Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina. It's a good cause, and I know it helps people like me. I don't think you can lose anything by giving to an organization like this.

I realize how blessed I am to come here and get the food that I get. There are so many hungry mouths in this world that don't have enough to eat. And to be able to come here and get fresh-cooked meals every day is a blessing. Thank you!



Louise serves hot meals to seniors at York County Council on Aging, a partner agency of Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina.

HELP PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE THIS HOLIDAY!

For folks in our community who are going hungry, it can be hard to count their blessings this Thanksgiving. But your support of Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina can provide your hungry neighbors with a meal they will truly be thankful for this holiday.

Thanks to caring friends like you, we were

able to reach out with turkeys and all the trimmings to tens of thousands of families last holiday season. But this year, we anticipate the need will be even greater.

Thanksgiving will soon be here. Please, help make it a day filled with good food and good cheer for thousands of hungry men, women and children. Thank you for opening your heart to those in need!

Your support will make Thanksgiving a day of celebration for families in need. **PLEASE HELP TODAY!**



SAVING A FAMILY OF SIX FROM HUNGER



Beverly, in her car to receive a box of food from the mobile pantry at St. John's Baptist.

by Beverly

I have to just do what I have to do to survive. My momma taught us how to survive. You have to take what you got and make ends meet.

There isn't much food in my house right now. I work part-time, and I have five kids. I need help so my babies don't go hungry. That's why I come to the food pantry, to get help with some food.

I'm so thankful for Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina. They are God's angels. It's a gift from God that you have people who want to help a person that's in need, because everybody needs help. Thank you for helping my family and me.

\$1 CAN PROVIDE 4 MEALS!

Thanks to relationships with grocery stores and food distributors, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina is able to take your financial donations and stretch them to provide meals for our hungry neighbors. Every \$1 you give provides 4 meals to help feed hungry men, women and children in our community. Isn't that incredible?

Thank you for your caring and compassionate support. Because of you many people in our community will enjoy a warm meal this Thanksgiving.



FROM GRATEFUL HEARTS

Words from a local family who has been helped thanks to your generosity:

“ My husband recently had a heart attack and went through triple bypass surgery. With children, it's definitely a blessing to help us through hard times. My husband is getting better and hoping to go back to work soon. Thank you so much.” – Jana

Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina

(704) 376-1785

500-B Spratt Street, Charlotte, NC 28206

secondharvestmetrolina.org



Costs are average and include the expense of securing & distributing food. If gifts exceed expenses, extra funds will be used to provide food to the hungry throughout the year. We never sell or rent our supporters' names or information. Your gift is tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. We will send a receipt for your records.