As we enter into a new year, we look forward to growing and improving our hunger initiative programs. Senior citizens (age 60 and older) are a rapidly growing demographic that have unique nutritional needs and very different challenges like functional limitations, health problems, or simply the inability to access or prepare food due to lack of transportation. Each year, Feeding America serves seven million seniors nationwide. As a part of the Feeding America network, America’s Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia participates and provides for roughly 2,218 food insecure seniors through Brown Bag for the Elderly and the USDA’s Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).

Our senior programs provide food assistance for low income seniors that are forced to make the tough decision between nutrition, rent, utilities (electricity, water) and medications. Every month, volunteers pack 1,692 brown bags and 526 boxes with non-perishable items. Partner agencies distribute these bags and boxes of food to seniors who have been certified as eligible due to their income level.

The number of food insecure seniors is projected to increase by 50% when the youngest of the Baby Boom Generation reaches age 60 in 2025. We recognize that food insecure seniors are at an increased risk for chronic health problems, like asthma, diabetes, and heart problems and that they are 60% more likely to experience depression. As our parents and grandparents are living longer, we must address senior hunger initiatives in order to prevent our elderly from missing out on vital nutrients received from wholesome food.
From the Executive Director:

Dear Friends:

It was a busy year at Second Harvest and when Hurricane Matthew hit our area, our community and staff immediately responded. During the 10-day period following Matthew, we provided more than 231,000 pounds of food and 25,000 hot meals to families, seniors and individuals impacted by the storm. Many people didn’t receive a paycheck while away and the money they spent on evacuating was the money they would normally allocate for food and other necessities. When they returned, the food in their refrigerators and freezers had spoiled and they had no money to replenish it. It will take months for many people to recover.

As you see on the cover of our newsletter, we are concentrating on our Senior Hunger Initiatives in 2017. Senior poverty numbers are increasing and they often struggle each month to make ends meet. Without the option of getting a job or family assistance, they must turn to food banks and pantries. With your help we will continue to bridge the gap for those in need.

We wish you good health, much hope and treasures that can’t be measured.

Happy New Year!

Mary Jane Crouch
Executive Director

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS

5,198 Volunteer Hours Completed this Fall

#Kindness365, 2nd IBCT, 3rd ID, Aerotek, Airmen unit, AKA, Gamma Sigma Omega, Amerigroup Real Solutions, Aramark- Savannah, Arconic, Armstrong Collegiate 100, Armstrong State Men’s Basketball, CMS Community Service, CompassionChristian Church, D.O.I.B, Daughters of the King, Delta Company 4-3, Diamond Crystal, Effingham County Camp Meeting, Exchange Club, Friends of ASHCG, Gateway to Success, Georgia Cyber Academy, God’s Work, Groover Give Back Crew, GSU Orientation Team, Gulfstream 2, Gulfstream MVP & LVP, Gulfstream Product Support, Gunn Meyerhoff Shay Architects, Hancock, Askew & Company, LLP, Hancock Day School 6th Graders, Hein Family, IKEA Savannah, Jobs for Georgia’s Graduates (JGG), Johnson Family, Jones Family, Kappa Epsilon Psi Military Sorority, Kingdom Life Church Ladies of Life, Kingdom Life Fusion Youth Group, The Landings, Landings Ladies, LittleOne Learning Center, Marsden Family, Mays Family, Money Shakers, New Ebenezer Retreat Center, OCS Student Council NJHS, Omni Hilton Head Oceanfront, Phi Mu, RHHS Key Club, SAA Key Club, Saint Leo Uni Aging class, Sarris Club, Savannah Christian Middle School, Savannah Early College High School, Savannah State Gear Up, Savannah State MSW Class of 2018, SCAD Food Waste Students, SCC Mission Team, SCPS, Security Forces GA ANG, Smith Family, Sociology 300, South University PA Program, St. Andrew’s School, Stanley’s Community Service Volunteer, Students See Savannah, Takada Pharmaceuticals, Team Riley, Telfair Chapter of Phi Alpha Delta, Temple Baptist Church, The Savannah Chapter of The Links, Inc., UGA Impact, Under Armour, USI Insurance Services Savannah, and WW Logistics.
Hurricane Matthew Relief Support

In some way, we all were touched by the aftermath and misfortune of natural disaster, Hurricane Matthew. As the food bank distribution center for coastal Georgia, Second Harvest was called on to aid in the disaster relief. We are so thankful for the support we received from far and wide and couldn’t have provided the assistance we did without the numerous volunteers that gave of their time and strength.

In the first four days that citizens were allowed to return, we provided more than 4,500 boxes of emergency food, along with cases of bottled water, baby food, bread, and produce. In the following days, we prepared and distributed 25,000 hot meals for people without food and/or electricity. In just ten days, we provided more than 231,000 pounds of food to individuals and partner agencies and conducted Mobile Food Pantries in order to help meet the rural need.

It was heartwarming to see the community come together to assist their neighbors but also wonderful to receive support from once strangers but now partners in the fight to end hunger.

As we welcome 2017, we are still seeing families, seniors and individuals struggling due to the sudden expense that was faced for their emergency evacuation (gas, food, hotel) only to return to no electricity, spoiled food, and expensive repairs.

Corporate donations for hurricane relief!

- Kellogg’s - 31,550 lbs
- Kroger - 40,000 lbs
- Metrolina Food Bank - 11,928 lbs
- Nestle USA - 14,750 lbs
- Publix, Whitemarsh - 14,826 lbs
- Southwire - 20,261 lbs
- Disaster Relief through Feeding America - 323,192 lbs

Southwire Project GIFT

More than 50 years ago, Southwire was founded by Roy Richards to help bring electricity to rural Georgia. Today, Southwire supplies 135 of the nation’s top power companies, plus dozens of utility companies abroad and is pioneering new technology to better serve all of its wire and cable customers.

It all started with one man’s desire to make life easier for his friends and neighbors. That commitment to technological innovation, customer service, employee empowerment and improving our communities remains the cornerstone of Southwire today.

Southwire’s employees are committed to making the communities in which they work better places to live. By giving their time through volunteering, they strive to create positive impacts in the places they call home. Collectively, they call their efforts Project GIFT (Giving Inspiration for Tomorrow). Whether it is raising funds for a worthwhile cause, working with beautification efforts, or lending a hand to those facing tough times Southwire’s Project GIFT team always remains ready to help. “I believe in doing what one man can,” Richards once said.

In the week following Hurricane Matthew, Second Harvest received a call from Southwire’s Project GIFT, who heard about the hurricane devastation and wanted to contribute to our disaster relief efforts. Just days later we received over 20,250 lbs of food and paper products from Southwire’s headquarters in Carrollton, Georgia.

Nam Dae Mun Farmers Market

Based out of Atlanta, Georgia, Nam Dae Mun Farmers Market contacted Second Harvest seeking to help with disaster relief. From a business standpoint, Nam Dae Mun Farmers Market’s mission is to become the preeminent international food company, serving various ethnic communities and cultures. As an active company that is involved in community outreach, Nam Dae Mun Farmers Market decided to donate $18,343.86 to America’s Second Harvest to assist the victims of Hurricane Matthew.

“We are delighted to visit Savannah to meet our Georgia neighbors, and to provide financial support to Second Harvest. We hope this will help the food bank continue to connect people to one another through the language of food. We were aware that Savannah was hit hard along with the neighboring states. After much research, we discovered that America’s Second Harvest was one of the main local non-profit organizations that was heavily involved in helping Hurricane Matthew victims in Savannah” says Mr. Kim, founder and owner of Nam Dae Mun Farmers Market. Nam Dae Mun wanted to reach out to their neighbors in Georgia and Second Harvest is so honored they did!

Kathedra Rivers, Human Resources Manager and Sam Oh, Marketing, Nam Dae Mun Farmers Market in Norcross, GA paid a visit to the food bank and hand delivered the check.
Southeast Branch Close-Up

Empty Bowl Fundraiser

Over 200 bowls made by local potters were sold during Empty Bowl held at Glynn Visual Arts. Stratton Hall Events shared delicious soup and artisan bread and desserts were donated by Serendipity, Smallcakes, SSI Sweets, Blvd Café, and Treehouse Macarons. Empty Bowl raised $4,291, enough funds to provide 21,455 meals to those in need in Coastal Georgia.

Thank you to our Hurricane Helpers

When Hurricane Matthew hit Coastal Georgia, more than 80 friends and supporters came out to help pack and distribute 1,000 emergency food boxes at the food bank and at Manna Mission in downtown Brunswick.

FLETC - Feds Feed Families

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC), located at the Naval Air Station Glynn since 1975, serves as an interagency law enforcement training body for United States government federal law enforcement agencies. It also provides training to state, local, campus, tribal, and international law enforcement agencies. The mission of FLETC is to “...train those who protect our homeland”.

Each year FLETC conducts a food drive for Second Harvest, known as Feds Feed Families. This year they collected close to 55,000 pounds for Second Harvest - Brunswick Branch. Kalista Morton, Community Relations Coordinator for Second Harvest officially received the pounds from the Director of FLETC, Connie Patrick.

Volunteer Support at RSM Classic

Georgia Kellogg and Lorena Harris were just a few of our supporters that volunteered at the Flip Flop Grill during the RSM Tournament. We made $440 on concessions for the day and $7,400 on ticket sales for the car raffle.

Bagley Family Home for the Holidays

The Bagley family travelled from all across the world to spend the Thanksgiving holiday in Glynn County. They rallied their support on Thanksgiving Eve and packed 200 bags for Backpack Buddies at Christ Church Frederica.

Nicole Bagley, pictured in the red jacket is a steadfast supporter of the Christ Church Backpack program and allocates family funds in order for the program to provide for disadvantaged children at four Glynn County elementary schools.
SANTA VISITS THUNDERBOLT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS CAFE

“Hosting a Christmas Party for Thunderbolt Elementary School’s Kids Cafe is the highlight of our year!” said Kim Barnhill, Sea Island Bank, Vice President and Second Harvest Board member. Sea Island Bank employees love to gather together during the holidays, but nothing makes us happier than to bring Santa Claus and some holiday magic to a group of sweet children.

Sea Island employees delivered Christmas cheer to the students.

Thunderbolt Elementary School cafeteria where students wrote their letters to Santa and got to meet the jolly old man and his dog too! Kids Cafe offers these students a hot meal every afternoon and we were glad to bring a twist to the menu for them with our special pizza party. We feel blessed to have been able to participate for the third year and look forward to hosting this again next year!

2016 marked twenty-seven years of our Kids Cafe program. Chefs’ Table is one of our community’s premiere culinary events that supports the nation’s second most successful child feeding program, created here in Savannah. With our generous Presenting Sponsors, Dr. and Mrs. James W. Andrews, Jr. joining us for the third year, the event was truly spectacular.

Even after the last minute date change due to the hurricane, we had a sold out evening with a successful live auction. Local celebrity chefs this year included, Vincent Burns: The Old Pink House, Simone Concasa: The Wilmington Island Club, Paul Ganem: Johnnie Ganem’s Wine and Package Shop, Gerald Green: Garibaldi, Dusty Grove: Pacci, Nick & Tracy Mueller: Mahgniffe, Theodore Paskevich: Joe’s Homemade and Sam Brod & Joe Truex: The Landings. We had five newcomers added to this elite group. They were Drue Longo Quay: 39 Rue de Jean Savannah, Will Oglesby: B. Matthew’s Eatery, Zach Shultz & Brandon Whitestone: Cotton & Rye, Lauren Teague: Atlantic, and Neil Youngblood from Blowing Smoke.

“Fund A Need, Feed A Child” raised an additional $17,725 with two donors each pledging to support an entire Kids Cafe location for one year.

We would like to thank our supporters, participating restaurants and chefs, auction donors and particularly our sponsors who made this evening a huge success.
Save the Dates - Support Second Harvest!

Super Bowl Chili and Cornbread
We’ll Make it - You Take it

-Award Winning Chili with Beans
4 quarts $30 (Feeds 15)

-Cornbread (Cheddar or Jalapeno)
1 Loaf $6 (Feeds 6)

Place your order by 3pm Monday, January 30th and we will have it ready for Pick Up on Friday, February 3rd, 8am - 6pm at Second Harvest (2501 East President Street) or Saturday, February 4th, 10am - 2pm at Skidaway Island United Methodist Church. All orders must be paid for in full when ordered. Call Alison to place your order, 912.721.1794. All proceeds benefit Second Harvest programs. **PRE ORDERS ONLY.**

America’s Second Harvest is excited to introduce our new Volunteer Center where your hands can Help End Hunger

Watch for our Grand Opening later in the Spring of 2017

Jewels & Jeans 2017

**presented by Bank of America**

Thursday April 20th 7-10pm

Heavy Hors d’oeuvres & Full Bar

Live Music by The Junkyard Angels and a Silent Auction

$85 a ticket  www.helpendhunger.org

Utilizing food and education to improve lives and create a hunger-free community.