

food thought

FALL 2023

Striving for the Finish Line We Need Your Help in the Home Stretch!

America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia has announced a capital campaign to raise the final funds needed for our new facility with a projected four months until relocating to Chatham Parkway. The Georgia Department of Community Affairs (DCA) entrusted us to purchase land and build a new facility that is double our current size, easily accessible from major highways, and located a safe distance from potential storm surges. This project has been two years in the making, and the finish line is coming up quickly.

We've been presented with an exciting and challenging opportunity, and we need your help to reach the finish line. **A foundation based in Atlanta has offered us a \$2 million grant ... if we are able to secure \$2 million in matching funds by September 30, 2023.** Now is your chance to be a part of food bank history and help us ensure for generations to come that our children, seniors, families, and individuals with handicaps will not struggle with food insecurity and the empty pain of hunger.



Our Kids Cafe Summer Feeding program just wrapped up serving 107,130 meals and took just one week to catch their breath before transitioning to the start of school. With the new facility and larger commercial kitchen, we will be able to broaden our reach into more after-school sites with even more hot evening meals for children in need. There are currently 104,570 neighbors overall that struggle with hunger in Coastal Georgia. Through our 241 non-profit and faith-based partner agencies and with a more efficient and significantly larger warehouse space, we know we will be able to positively impact the lives of many more neighbors in our community.

We need your help in the home stretch! We are anxious to reach the finish line with a strong effort! Join us and donate now or make a pledge, for up to 5 years. A select number of naming opportunities remain, but every dollar will make a difference for our neighbors in need. This capital campaign will help us grow our reach and ultimately help all those in need in Coastal Georgia.

To discuss the project or donate to the capital campaign, please contact our Executive Director, Mary Jane Crouch, at 912.721.1790 or mcrouch@helpendhunger.org.



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From the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

As we approach the end of this year and the finish line for construction on our new campus, we could not be more excited to move into a new space and for all of the opportunities that come with it. The generosity of our community has once again surpassed what we thought possible through an incredible outpouring of donations and in-kind support. As the cost of groceries and other essential items continues to rise, so does hunger in Coastal Georgia. The need for our services is greater than ever.

School is back in session, and before we know it, we will enter the holiday season—a time for reflecting, community, and giving. With your help, we can continue to ensure that our programs are properly funded and continue to be able to feed our neighbors. Although we are currently in a capital campaign to support our new location, program funding is instrumental in achieving our mission to end hunger. Unless designated otherwise, support from this newsletter will ensure the continued success of our programs and feed hungry families, children, and seniors in Coastal Georgia.

It takes many hands and hearts to achieve our mission, and we are so thankful for your role in helping to end hunger and improve lives.

With gratitude,

Mary Jane Crouch
Executive Director

JOIN THESE HUNGER HEROES and Take Action Against Hunger



Empty Bowl A Triumphant Return

The Southeast branch of Second Harvest in Brunswick, Georgia is excited to bring back Empty Bowl this winter after a two-year hiatus. Empty Bowl began in 1990 as a high school art project started by Michigan teacher, John Hartom, in an effort to raise awareness of hunger. Thirty-three years later, Empty Bowl fundraisers take place all over the country to address food insecurity.



This year's event is presented by Glynn Visual Arts (GVA) and will take place on **Saturday, December 16th from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM**. The event will feature tablescapes with bowls made by twenty GVA ceramic artists who have been hard at work for several months. Bowls will be sold for \$35 each in sets of two or four. The event will also offer supporters the option to make donations if they miss out on the opportunity to purchase a bowl.

Southeast Branch Manager Jennifer Floyd anticipates they will sell out of the bowls by 3:00 PM, so she encourages interested shoppers to arrive early! The pottery, space, decorations, and entertainment have all been donated, so 100% of the profits from the 2023 Empty Bowl will directly benefit the Southeast Branch of Second Harvest and feed our neighbors in Coastal Georgia. We encourage you to attend and support this incredible fundraiser if you are in the area!

School Pantry Program Providing a Lifeline of Support for Brunswick Students

The impact on the Brunswick community is profound as we rally behind vital initiatives such as the School Pantry program, which holds the power to potentially make a real difference in the lives of our local children and families facing food insecurity.

The School Pantry initiative establishes accessible food pantries within partner schools, offering a lifeline of support for those grappling with financial strain. Each school pantry houses boxes brimming with shelf-stable food, ample enough to provide three to four meals for a family. Through the support of Sea Island and its staff, these supplies are purchased, organized, and packed to be at the ready for school staff to distribute discreetly to those who require assistance.



**America's Second Harvest
of Coastal Georgia**

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As we look to the future, the vision for the School Pantry program becomes even more inspiring, thanks to the success of the Brunswick program, coupled with the boundless generosity of friends and donors like you. The ripple effect of this endeavor promises to strengthen our community's resolve to uplift one another during times of need, ensuring that no child goes to bed hungry, and no family lacks the essential support they deserve to be successful.

This program reminds us that our strength lies in our unity, compassion, and unwavering commitment to the well-being of our neighbors.

Missions With Meaning

YouthWorks

This summer Second Harvest was joined for the 9th year in a row by teenagers and adults from YouthWorks, a Minnesota-based agency that hosts mission trips that focus on youth, communities, respectful service, relationships, diversity, and development. While at Second Harvest, YouthWorks members get to assist with a variety of volunteer activities including packing items for Mobile Food Pantry and preparing breakfast packs for Summer Feeding. They also receive education on food insecurity and the impact of their service.

The teens were divided in regards to how aware they were of food insecurity in their own communities, with some being very aware of the issue and others saying they did not notice food insecurity among their peers. Marco said that he often offers to purchase school lunch for his classmates who cannot afford it, and hopes that individuals experiencing food insecurity can use their money on other necessities such as rent or medical care. Alex said she was not very aware of food insecurity among her peers but notes that it can be hard to tell when someone is struggling. She enjoyed packing boxes for the mobile food pantry because she knew “every box was going to a family or someone” in need.

Gabe, an adult leader for YouthWorks, said he believes that the time these teenagers spend at Second Harvest will inspire them to take action to end hunger when they return home. Rachel says it is important to “help people who might not be able to help themselves,” because “people are working as hard as they can but can’t provide for themselves or their family.” She plans to get a group together to volunteer at food banks in her area.

Second Harvest is very thankful to have had another eight weeks of teen volunteers supporting our mission and helping to end hunger. Daniela has been on three YouthWorks trips and says “Volunteering brings out a side of me that I didn’t know I had. I love helping others.” Daniela shared that she grew up in a food-insecure home that often relied on food banks and said, “Seeing that I can help others that don’t have [food] as I did really does touch me.” She stressed the importance of spreading awareness of hunger among her peers so that they can continue to take action, stating “We are the future.”

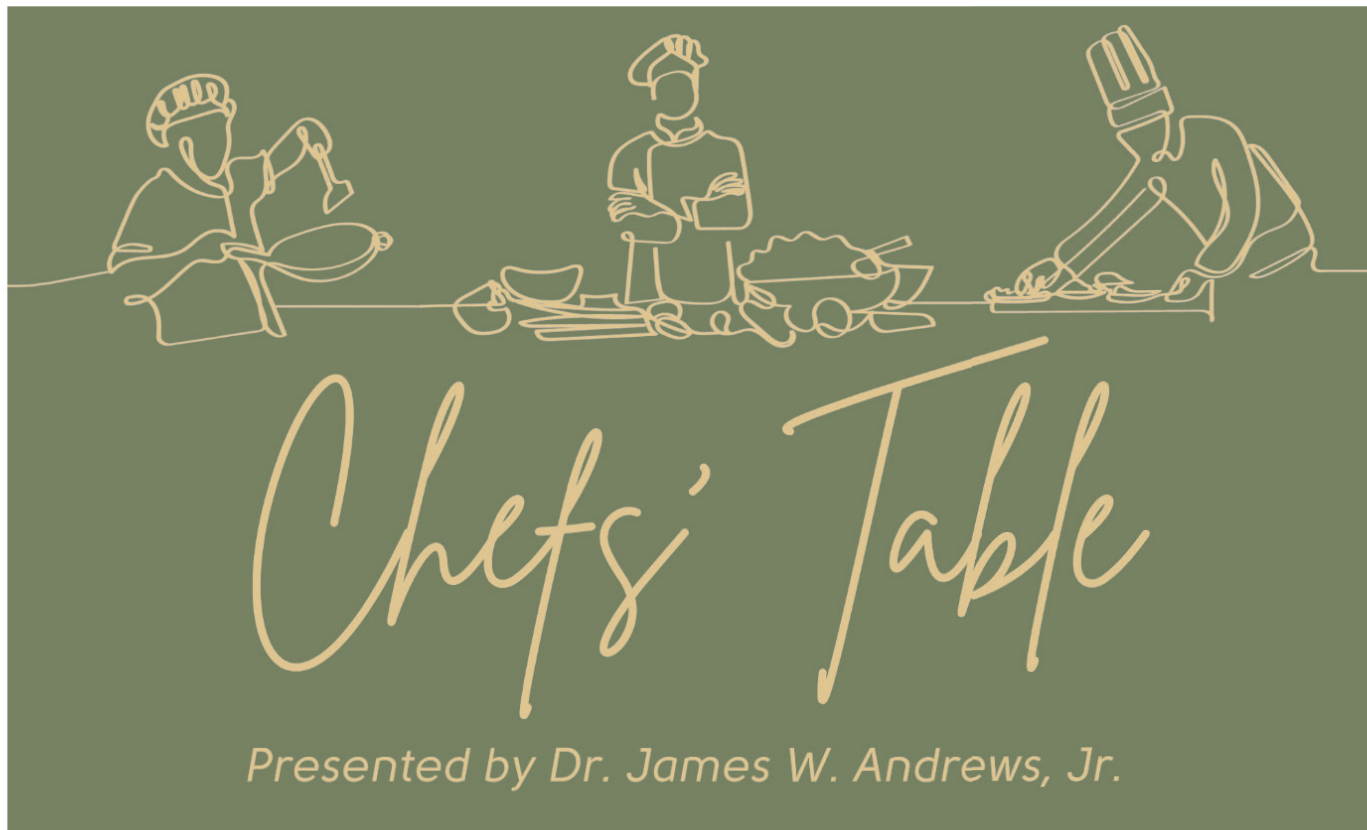


“Volunteering brings out a side of me that I didn’t know I had. I love helping others.”

– Daniela,
YouthWorks Volunteer



L to R: Gabe (18), Marco (15), Rachel (17), Alex (17), Daniela (18), William (44), Sam (18)



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Kids Cafe is a nationally recognized after-school program that started in Savannah in 1989. 2023 will be a celebration of the program's thirty-fourth year. Kids Cafe provides children with a safe place to go after school for homework, tutoring, and a nutritious hot meal Monday through Friday. During the last year, we have distributed over 831,000 nutritious meals for children.

DID YOU KNOW?



An estimated
1 in 6 people will look for
food assistance in 2023.

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September is Hunger Action Month

We need your help to raise awareness.

HUNGER ACTION MONTH™ MEMBER OF FEEDING AMERICA

WORD SEARCH

M	O	N	T	P	K	I	N	D	N	E	S	S	D
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SMILE
KINDNESS
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SUPPORT
GIVING
MEALS

SEPTEMBER
SHARING
ACTION
DONATE

SNACKS
CARING
HELP
CAPITAL

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For questions please contact Jennifer Floyd
at jfloyd@helpendhunger.org.

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America's Second Harvest
of Coastal Georgia

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RAFFLE TICKET ENTRIES INTO "FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION" PRESENTED BY NALLEY AUTOMOTIVE OF BRUNSWICK MUST BE RECEIVED BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 2023. MUST BE 18 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER AND A LEGAL RESIDENT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE GRAND PRIZE. THE RAFFLE IS VOID WHERE PROHIBITED AND RESTRICTED BY LAW FOR COMPLETE RULES AND REGULATIONS VISIT: RSMCLASSIC.COM/CHARITY/FRIENDS-OF-DLF.