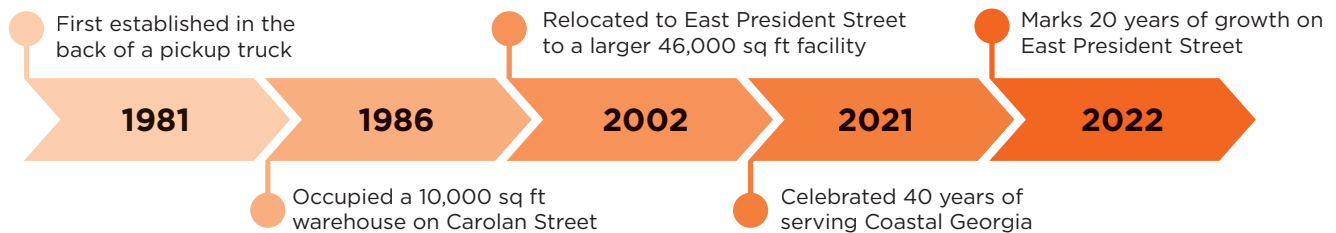


food thought

FALL 2022

Expanding to End Hunger

Leading the effort to end hunger and improve lives – that is the mission of America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia. We are a member of Feeding Georgia, the state organization of seven food banks, and Feeding America, the national organization of 200 food banks. We are your community food bank serving 21 counties of Coastal Georgia.



As we reflect on just the past two years, we give thanks for the strength needed to endure the Covid-19 pandemic, and we recognize we have reached our maximum potential in our current space. Our current location consists of multiple buildings spread across two city blocks. Buildings range in age from 15 to 50 years old. The facilities are in low-lying areas; if Savannah experiences a major hurricane, it is projected that our current location would take months to reopen. We have outgrown our footprint and need more space to grow our programs, operate more efficiently, and maintain safety standards. We are experiencing a growth spurt but are landlocked with no room to grow.

Our new campus will be centrally located further inland, on higher ground and easily accessible to major highways. Once completed, we will occupy 143,226 sq. ft., which includes a 98,108 sq. ft. warehouse space; an 18,425 sq. ft. volunteer center and agency marketplace; a 13,480 sq. ft. Kids Cafe commercial kitchen, and a 13,213 sq. ft. space for administrative offices and training.

We distributed more than 28.1 million pounds of food last year to people in our community – children, senior citizens, people with disabilities, people experiencing homelessness, and others whose incomes are insufficient to meet their basic needs. This project once completed will ensure we are able to continue to grow and be a resource to those at risk for hunger. This will be an investment in our community for a long-term solution to end hunger and improve lives for many years to come.



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www.helpendhunger.org



From the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

Kids are back in school, which also means it's September and Hunger Action Month.

This year's theme is "Impossible Choices."

Choice (noun): an act of selecting or making a decision when faced with two or more possibilities. We all have to make choices every day, but could you imagine having to make the choice of whether or not to eat?

Eat or Feed my child?

Eat or Buy gas to get to work?

Eat or Pay the electric bill?

Eat or Refill my prescription?

These choices are very real for 114,760 individuals in Coastal Georgia and over one million in the state of Georgia. Food insecurity is a lack of access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Like so many across the country, our neighbors are still struggling to overcome hardships brought on by the pandemic and are now faced with the soaring inflation rate and at least a 10% increase in the cost of groceries. When difficult times hit, food is usually the first choice to go without.

A great deal has changed in the last two years, we have doubled our food assistance efforts and are touching the lives of more individuals, families, seniors and people with disabilities than ever before – many of whom became unemployed, food insecure and possibly homeless for the first time. Our plan to address the new normal of food insecurity is to "Grow our Reach" by doubling our space and increasing our capacity to serve. Every day we work diligently to try to eliminate this impossible choice for all of our neighbors.

It takes time and dedication of our staff and so many volunteers, donors, sponsors, and supporters to make it all happen, and we are truly grateful for each and every one of you. We welcome you to come for a tour and see what we are all about.

With gratitude,

Mary Jane Crouch
Executive Director

JOIN THESE HUNGER HEROES and Take Action Against Hunger



Our People Make the Difference



Davis Love Foundation



America's Second Harvest and Sea Island

As told by Mike Kennedy, Sea Island Director of Recreation and Resort Logistics

As a volunteer in the community, both as a youth sports coach and with our local branch of America's Second Harvest, I have encountered many children who are experiencing food insecurity. It may not be something that people in our area realize is a common struggle, but I personally consider it to be one of the greatest challenges for children in our community.

I first started working with Second Harvest when the Sea Island leadership team, who is passionate about helping make meaningful change in our community, was reviewing opportunities for giving back. We began working with Second Harvest on a community challenge where Sea Island would match any funds raised which resulted in a \$500,000 grant from Sea Island to Second Harvest.

With these funds, Second Harvest will be able to break ground on a new 50,000 sq. ft. facility. This building, aiming to open in 2023, will be able to house a larger community center and expand the programming that we can offer. It will also allow us to cook and distribute hot meals - which is a concern, especially in the summer months when children are on school break. Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia serves 21 counties in our area and this branch alone handles six of them. Together, we partner with 78 different agencies to collect and distribute more than 2.2 million pounds of food per year.



Sea Island Director of Recreation and Resort Logistics, Mike Kennedy, with Jennifer Floyd, Branch Manager of Second Harvest in Brunswick.



America's Second Harvest donation truck.

The new facility is something I know that Jennifer Floyd, Branch Manager of Second Harvest in Brunswick, needs to help our community. I am so thankful to work alongside local superheroes, like Jennifer, and to work for a company that values giving back in such a meaningful way.

If you're looking to get involved with Second Harvest, I welcome you to explore volunteerism opportunities at helpendhunger.org/southeast-branch.

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Congratulations to Brunswick's 2022 Volunteers of the Year

There are many reasons why someone chooses to volunteer with America's Second Harvest. For our Brunswick branch 2022 Volunteer of the Year recipients, mother and son team, Lou and Jeff Kratzer, it was their faith. Lou and Jeff first came to Second Harvest seeking food assistance when they were dealing with food insecurity themselves. Not wanting to just receive, they decided to give back what they could: their time. The duo has been volunteering at the Brunswick branch two days a week for over a year in our Partner Market Place. They also help out with the Glynn County Mobile Food Pantry at the Glynn Place Mall. Responsibilities in the Market Place range from sorting and shelving incoming food donations, cleaning, and helping improve the overall function of the marketplace. While assisting with the mobile food pantries, they've both experienced the impact of their volunteering firsthand from returning recipients who recognize them and express their gratitude and appreciation. When asked how this makes them feel, they both replied "Fulfilled." For Jeff, his proudest moment has been helping with the mobile food pantry from start to finish—and was the

last to leave. Lou's proudest moment was when the food bank received a large food donation, and she was able to sort and shelve the entire donation in one day. But they both agree on one thing: if you're considering volunteering, you should volunteer at America's Second Harvest.



Not wanting to just receive, they decided to give back what they could: their time.

Congratulations to Savannah's 2022 Volunteer of the Year!

Meet Kate Fox-Marrs, our 2022 Volunteer of the Year recipient for our Savannah branch. Kate began volunteering with America's Second Harvest about six years ago. After living in Savannah for a year, she wanted to somehow give back to the community. She began volunteering with our Brown Bag program, packing grocery bags for seniors. However, it wasn't until a fellow mom from her children's school recommended the Kids Cafe that she began helping out in the kitchen. Kate has now been volunteering in

the kitchen two days a week for over five years and is always only a phone call away in an emergency. Kate is invaluable to the Kids Cafe staff—and, with her knowledge of how the Kids Cafe kitchen operates, she helps train incoming volunteers.

Chef Sarah says, "Kate has recruited countless volunteers who help out regularly, and, in the summers when the kitchen sends out more than 4,000 meals, she even recruits her daughter to help." Kate is known for her willingness to do even the less desirable jobs like lugging and breaking down giant boxes that are used to send the meals out safely. When asked why she volunteers, Kate said "I really enjoy volunteering. It's nice to be able to help out and feel appreciated." Although Kate isn't in it for the recognition, she says being recognized as the 2022 Volunteer of the Year has been one of her proudest moments. For anyone considering volunteering, Kate would tell you, "Do it! The kitchen has a great atmosphere with hard-working friends and staff."



"I really enjoy volunteering. It's nice to be able to help out and feel appreciated."

If you are interested in volunteering your time and talents in our Kids Cafe kitchen, please reach out to Sarah Maier at smaier@helpendhunger.org or 912-236-6750 x2092.

Chefs' Table

Benefitting Kids Cafe

Presented by Dr. James W. Andrews, Jr.

Thank You to Our Sponsors and Participating Chefs



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Kids Cafe is a nationally recognized after-school program that started in Savannah in 1989. 2022 will be a celebration of the program's thirty-third year. Kids Cafe provides children 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. Visit www.helpendhunger.org/event/chefstable2022 for Online Auction access starting October 4th.

WORD SEARCH FUN

FIND THE WORDS LISTED BELOW!



- | | | | |
|------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| IMPOSSIBLE | CHATHAM | AWARENESS | HUNGER |
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SHOULDN'T
BE AN**

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CHOICE**

NOBODY SHOULD BE FACED WITH A CHOICE BETWEEN FOOD AND OTHER BASIC NEEDS. BUT PEOPLE FACING HUNGER IN OUR OWN COMMUNITY MAY BE FACED WITH IMPOSSIBLE CHOICES JUST LIKE THESE.

SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH, JOIN AMERICA'S SECOND HARVEST OF COASTAL GEORGIA IN THE FIGHT TO END HUNGER.



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