

food *for* thought

SUMMER 2020

Emergency Response Efforts – On the Front Lines Fighting Hunger

March 20 – July 31, 2020

When faced with the mandatory shutdown of our state and our schools due to the COVID-19 pandemic, America's Second Harvest immediately flipped the switch ON for emergency response efforts.

We have hosted 118 socially distanced, no contact Emergency Mobile Food Pantry Drive Through Distributions.

We have distributed 10,234,802 pounds of food, which represents the equivalent of 8,529,000 meals.

We have experienced a distribution increase of 49% over the same time period in 2019.

All of this was possible through the cooperation of our partner agencies in 21 counties, permission from Governor Brian Kemp to enlist the Georgia National Guard, and the help of community organizations, supporters, donors, and volunteers. We appreciate your time, assistance, and support to expeditiously distribute food to 300-1,400 cars at each location in just a few hours.



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From the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

As I write this letter, I am reminded that when I started at Second Harvest in 2002, food insecurity in coastal Georgia was something that I wasn't aware even existed. Seeing the senior and child that didn't know where their next meal would come from, and seeing the crying parent that couldn't feed their family, made me realize we sometimes don't know what people are going through.

COVID-19 has highlighted hunger not only in America, but also in our community. It has presented a perfect storm and/or triple whammy of increased demand, declines in donations, and disruptions to the charitable food assistance system's operating model. It has also brought out the best in people helping other people. From delivering food to homebound people, to offering to host our Mobile Food Pantries — we have come together to support each other. Feeding America estimates that an additional 17.1 million people could be food insecure in 2020 as a result of this crisis. We know that this is not a sprint, but a marathon.

The generosity of our community overwhelms us, and we marvel at the offers of our community to partner with us to make sure children, seniors, families, and individuals have the most basic of their needs — food. **With your help, we are in it for the long haul. Together, we got this!**

Fondest gratitude,

Mary Jane Crouch
Executive Director

JOIN THESE HUNGER HEROES and Take Action Against Hunger



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Thankful, Grateful, Blessed

Thankful to have been awarded \$500,799 of the Jeff Bezos COVID-19 \$100 million Relief Grant. This grant was offered for immediate support of the 200-member food banks of the Feeding America network. During crisis response, our food bank has incurred a huge burden of expenses in order to source additional food, supplies, transportation and increased operations. Unemployment numbers continue to skyrocket across our communities and we are faced with the reality that this response will go on for months and the economic impact could go on for years. Many families are turning to food banks for the first time, and we have seen a dramatic increase in the number of people who suddenly need help due to businesses being shut down, employees being laid off or let go, and mandated school closures.

Grateful for the support of over 500 donors within the month of May that contributed to the May Match Challenge of \$150,000 awarded by an anonymous donor. Since the nationwide shutdown in March, we have seen some creative and resourceful means of fundraising. A few that stand out to us are:

- WTOC's benefit concert and telethon for local food banks
- Individuals donating their government stimulus checks
- WJCL's Thursday promotions of our Grab & Go meals for the children
- The Fabulous Equinox Orchestra's free online concert with virtual ticket sales and sponsorships
- Welland Racing/NEXGEN Junior Development Cycling team's donation of funds they raised for their season that didn't happen
- Zunzi's Families Feeding Families Initiative that matched meal to meal for those struggling with hunger

Blessed to have compassionate donors, corporate sponsors and partner agencies both locally and nationally that make it possible for us to feed the need in Coastal Georgia. The support we have received during this unprecedented and incredibly stressful time has allowed us to maintain operations and purchase food and supplies in greater quantities than ever before. The need for food has been immediate in the midst of the sudden flare-up and panic brought on by the COVID-19 health crisis.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 and the mandated school closures, our primary concern has been to continue to feed the children. To date, Grace's Kitchen has prepared 468,345 Grab & Go meals and with the assistance of the Georgia National Guard and our Kids Cafe partners the meals have been distributed as Drive Thru, stay in your car, take away service. Normally during the school year, we provide evening Kids Cafe meals five days a week. When struck with COVID-19 and school closures, we switched over to Grab & Go breakfast and lunch. Grab & Go meals have continued throughout the summer since camps and group programs have not been allowed. Meals are packaged in To Go containers and then hot boxes for delivery with our kitchen staff starting their days at 4am in order for six delivery trucks to be on the road by 6am.

thankful
grateful
blessed





9th Annual Legal Food Frenzy

April 20 - May 1

A record-breaking \$27,836.50 was raised for America's Second Harvest during the 9th Annual Legal Food Frenzy. This successful team of legal leaders was co-chaired by Susannah Pedigo of The Pedigo Law Firm, P.C., and Quentin Marlin of Ellis, Painter, Ratterree & Adams, LLP. Mary Jane Crouch, Executive Director of America's Second Harvest, said, "The funds raised by the legal community will go a long way to support our neighbors during this time of increased need."

Their partnership and continued support of our mission to feed the food insecure is humbling and we are so grateful for their help. A HUGE thank you to all who participated."

They are listed as follows: Ashley Miles, P.C., Bouhan Falligant, LLP., Cromwell & Stevens, LLP., Edenfield Trial Law, Edenfield, Cox & Bruce, Ellis Painter Ratterree & Adams, LLP., Georgia Southern University Office of Legal Affairs- Statesboro, Gilbert, Harrell, Sumerford & Martin, P.C.,



Gray, Pannell & Woodward, LLP., Hunter, Maclean, Exley & Dunn, P.C., Moore Clarke DuVall & Rodgers, P.C., Nest: Estate Planning by L. Rachel Wilson, Ogeechee Circuit Public Defender's Office, Savannah YLD, Strain Law, LLC., The Brown Firm, LLC., The Law Office of Jennifer Wittich, The Pedigo Law Firm, P.C., and the United States Bankruptcy Court.

Realtors Fight Hunger

June 15-26

2020 marked the inaugural year for a new statewide real estate industry competition hosted by the Georgia Food Bank Association (GFBA). The REALTORS® Fighting Hunger was on the June calendar long before our state got hit with the COVID-19 pandemic. We are thrilled the competition was a first-year success and brought us \$3,767 to help with our emergency relief efforts for these uncertain times. Five Coastal Georgia Boards accepted the challenge with the Savannah Board of REALTORS® receiving Region 9 MVP for Most Points Per Capita.

Georgia Association of REALTORS® and GFBA plan to make the REALTORS® Fighting Hunger campaign an annual competition that will take place each summer. All of the funds collected are donated directly to the regional food bank that serves each Board and Association's respective community.

The Savannah Area REALTORS® got a head start on fundraising for our COVID-19 emergency efforts and donated \$7,500 towards our May Match Challenge. This could not be included in the tally for the June competition but none the less, the Savannah Area Realtors donation has been a tremendous help for us to fight COVID-19 related hunger.



Georgia Accounting Food Fight

August 10-21

Watch for results of the third statewide industry competition hosted by the Georgia Food Bank Association.



Southeast Branch

Sixth Annual Empty Bowl Goes Virtual

November 6 and 7, 10am – 5pm

As we continue to navigate the uncharted waters of COVID-19, we have made the decision to host our annual Empty Bowl fundraiser virtually. Our 6th Annual Empty Bowl will feature an "Earth to Table" display of bowls by GVA studio members along with other local potters. Unfortunately, we will have to forego our soup dinner with this virtual event, but we will display and sell the bowls online via our website. **Bowls may be purchased for \$30 which allows us to provide 150 meals to the food insecure in our community.** This year's bowls will be crafted by area potters as well as several "novice pots" by students from College of Coastal Georgia. Each studio member has committed to making at least 12 bowls to donate. Additionally, local potters are donating larger one-of-a-kind bowls that will only be available by silent auction. **Don't miss the unique auction items on display and available for bidding when you pick up your bowl from GVA.**

For event info, contact Kalista Morton at 912.261.7979 or kmorton@helpendunger.org.



Bowls crafted by Ann Marie Dalis and Marilyn Eigen.



On the Road – Fighting Hunger

The Southeast Branch and driver Kyle Boyett received a new 26' Hino refrigerated truck as part of the Jeff Bezos COVID-19 Relief Grant. This truck will be used to pick up grocery donations, make agency deliveries, and shuttle food to our Mobile Food Pantry distributions in the Golden Isles and surrounding communities.



Golden Isles YMCA employees Tiffany Randolph, AJ Kirkland, and Carly Lawson helped to distribute 300 Grab & Go meals weekly to area kids that were impacted by school closures. They also gave out hundreds of boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables from the USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program made possible through the CARES Act 2020. We appreciate the partnership of the Golden Isles YMCA and for helping us reach those in need of food during these challenging times.

The College of Coastal Georgia has made their campus available to host drive-through emergency food distributions and feed the need in Glynn county during the pandemic. With the help of volunteers and the Georgia National Guard we've been able to distribute food boxes to thousands of families and individuals every other week onsite at the college. The demand for food has significantly increased due to COVID-19 and the economic impact it has had on households. We are so grateful to the community and the numerous volunteers for helping us feed our residents. The support we've received from Glynn County has been phenomenal and we are so thankful for your partnership and response to help our neighbors in need. Thank you to the College of Coastal Georgia, Brunswick Police Department, Brunswick Public Works, and the Emergency Management Agency.



HUNGER ACTION MONTH™

MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA

We can end hunger one helping at a time ... Hunger Action Month is a campaign of Feeding America that sets out to raise awareness about hunger and inspire Americans to get involved in September and throughout the rest of the year. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic we have had to limit our interaction with volunteers and are forced to find alternative means to keep our supporters engaged. We have had to cancel so many events, both large and small, due to this health crisis and often rely heavily on donations from food and fund drives. Even though we cannot welcome you into our buildings just yet, we hope that you will keep us in your thoughts and continue to support us from a distance.

If you would like to get in touch with our Volunteer Center and receive updates on our volunteer status, please contact Paula Hall, Community Relations Manager, at 912.721.1795 or phall@helpendhunger.org.

COVID Relief Word Fun

Find these words!

AMERICA
COASTAL
COVID
DISTRIBUTION
DONATION
FOODBANK
HUNGER
KIDSCAPE
MEALS
NATIONALGUARD
PANDEMIC
PRODUCE
SECONDHARVEST
SUPPORT
VOLUNTEER

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Save the Date October 6, 2020



Chef's Table 2020 The Great UnEvent

Do you enjoy sipping wine and eating pizza in your PJ's? Then this event is for you! Details coming soon on how you can support the Second Harvest Food Bank and the Kid's Café Program when the need is the greatest.

Last year we were able to supply over 5,000 turkeys to 206 of our partner agencies that in turn distributed to the individuals and families they serve for Thanksgiving.

High Five



Turkey Drive

This year we all are experiencing challenges in the food supply chain. Please consider helping us make sure holiday meals are on everyone's table this Fall. Your \$25 donation from now until November 19th will allow us to purchase and provide families with a turkey and all the Thanksgiving sides.