

food thought

SUMMER 2021



FEEDING CHILDREN— IT'S WHAT WE DO!

One in four children are at risk for hunger in Coastal Georgia. It's a statistic you may have heard before, but have you ever thought about what's being done to solve it?

At America's Second Harvest, our mission is to end hunger and improve lives in the communities we serve. When it comes to childhood hunger, we are combatting this issue with three important programs.



Kids' Cafe provides children at-risk for hunger a nutritious evening meal, tutoring, homework assistance, and a welcoming haven. Children are served hot, balanced

meals during an after-school program where they are safe and supervised. We pivoted to a Grab & Go program during the pandemic where kids pick up their meals and take them home. Utilizing an innovative Oliver Packaging System, we streamlined the meal transport process and reduced our environmental impact with 100% compostable meal trays. Since April 2020, we have provided more than 1 million meals to children in our community and are ready for the 2021 school year!

We know that childhood hunger continues to be a concerning issue in Coastal Georgia. But with the continued support of our community, we are confident that it's an issue that **can be solved—TOGETHER.**

Backpack Buddies is a weekend and holiday food program that we support through food procurement for our participating non-profit partner agencies. Partners receive kid-friendly food through us and pack weekend bags that school teachers or guidance counselors slip into the child's backpack when the need for extra assistance is identified. We supply food for 7,500 backpacks every week.

BACKPACK



BUDDIES

SCHOOL PANTRY



The **School Pantry** program, piloted in Savannah in 2020, established pantries in partner schools to provide an accessible source of food assistance for low-income students and their families. Boxes of shelf-stable food, enough

for three to four meals plus breakfast, are kept on hand for school personnel to distribute to those needing help. Thanks to the success of the Savannah program, and the generosity of donors and friends like you, we are implementing the School Pantry program in all Glynn County public schools in 2021.

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Savannah, GA 31404
912.236.6750

www.helpendhunger.org



From the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

As we celebrate 40 years of fighting hunger in Coastal Georgia, I feel gratitude to those who have partnered with us in this great effort to end hunger in our community. From our humble beginnings out of the back of a pickup truck to our current location in Savannah and our proposed branch expansion in Brunswick, we continue to see a need to increase services and build capacity.

Second Harvest food bank is set to embark on a transformational journey as we increase the size of our Brunswick facility to include a Kids Cafe kitchen, volunteer center and double the warehouse space. This expansion will allow us the ability to feed more people who are at-risk for hunger, add additional programming, and play a lead role in collaborating with other organizations. While we are proud of the ways we have grown to meet the need, there is still much work to be done. We look forward to continuing our mission and growing our organization to serve even more of our neighbors.

Together, we can create a thriving community and ensure our children have a bright, healthy future.

Stay safe!

Mary Jane Crouch
Executive Director

We are excited to be able to welcome back our wonderful volunteers that have dedicated so many hours of hard work in our Kids Cafe kitchen and warehouse. **We recently honored Miss Shirley Harris** for her seven years of time well spent in our Agency Marketplace sorting and stocking canned goods and non-perishables.



JOIN THESE HUNGER HEROES and Take Action Against Hunger



Feeding The Future In Glynn County

In June we announced exciting news that will positively effect Glynn County and our Southeast Branch in Brunswick. We have been awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs through an allocation of funds from the CARES Community Development Block Grant for capital improvement. With an additional \$1 million dollars that we need to raise, we plan to triple the size of our Brunswick facility.

The Brunswick Branch serves five counties: Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Glynn, McIntosh and Wayne. This past year, we worked with a record number of agencies and were able to distribute more than 5.3 million pounds of food, 2,025,430 pounds in Glynn County alone. It is because of this increase in need that this campaign couldn't come at a better time. The goal of the expansion project includes the addition of a commercial kitchen to prepare meals for children in our Kids Cafe program, a designated volunteer center to pack Brown Bags for the Elderly and Mobile Food Pantry boxes, additional loading dock space to accommodate large rigs and increased warehouse space for more food storage.

Feeding The Future is a \$2.5 million capital campaign that is vital to increasing capacity for food assistance in southeastern Coastal Georgia. The campaign will triple the size of our Brunswick Branch and allow us to reach more individuals, children, elderly and the disabled that struggle with food insecurity. Sea Island, a destination resort on the Atlantic coast, announced that they, along with the Anschutz Foundation, have pledged \$500,000 in matching funds for every dollar raised in the community toward our \$1 million goal.

"Over one-fifth of the residents of Glynn County experience food insecurity. That is simply too many. The expansion of America's Second Harvest Brunswick facility will be a critical step in reducing this percentage in our community," said Scott Steilen, President and CEO of Sea Island Company. "This is an important issue for everyone, and it is time we make a strong commitment to address it." Mary Jane Crouch, Executive Director, Second Harvest, emphasized the importance of this collaboration. "This project will help so many that are at risk for hunger not have to worry about where or when they will have their next meal. We are so honored to work with Sea Island and The Anschutz Foundation to end hunger in Coastal Georgia."



Scott Steilen, President and CEO

Sea Island®



SCAN HERE and see the proposed expansion to Feed the Future in Glynn County.



Employee Spotlight: Aaron Barr

In his nine years of service at America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia, Aaron Barr has proven to be a vital asset to our team. Aaron developed an appreciation for our mission as a teenager. He first joined us during his high school and college summer breaks in our Kids Cafe program helping with breakfast preparation and meal distribution. Aaron graduated from Armstrong State University with a degree in Criminal Justice and eventually moved into full time roles with us, first as a Delivery Driver for our Kids Cafe Program and most recently serving as our Volunteer Center Coordinator. While visiting our Kids Cafe sites he was able to see the young children enjoying the meals which affirmed his commitment to helping end hunger in our community.

Aaron says that working with volunteers every day is an extremely rewarding experience and a wonderful opportunity to learn more about various communities both near and far. On an average day you can find him organizing bulk food and packaging supplies in preparation for volunteers to pack Grab & Go Breakfasts and Emergency Food Assistance Boxes. He enjoys communicating our mission, walking volunteers through every step of their assigned job, and making sure everyone is having a fun (and safe) time while volunteering. He enjoys telling volunteers how much food they helped pack at the end of the day and encourages them to take pictures and share their experience on social media with friends and family.

“My favorite part about my job is talking to volunteers,” Aaron says. “Many of them have really interesting stories and are more than happy to share them with me. It's such a fun way to get to know others in my community.” That being said, Aaron rarely shares his interesting stories of training to be a pilot. He has over 46 hours logged at high altitudes and looks forward to passing one final test and becoming a licensed pilot.



Interested in Lending a Hand?

It's simple to sign up online and get involved. We welcome individuals and groups and have opportunities to help Tuesday – Saturday. Find more information on volunteering, view our calendar with availabilities and sign up to show up at helpendhunger.org.

OR scan this QR code for volunteer opportunities in Savannah



SAVE THE DATE

Chefs' Table

Presenting Sponsor Dr. James W. Andrews, Jr.
Benefitting America's Second Harvest
Kids Cafe Program.

10.05.21

Individual Sponsors

Mr. & Mrs. David Barrow
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Bocard
Mrs. Inge Brasseler
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Dorman
Mr. & Mrs. Brent Harlander
Mr. & Mrs. Brian Harlander
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Larsen
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Featured Restaurants

Ardley Station
Current Catering
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The Landings
La Scala Ristorante
Local 11Ten
Mahniffe
New Realm Distillery Co.
The Olde Pink House
1540 Room



Kids Cafe is a nationally recognized after-school program that started in Savannah in 1989. 2021 will be a celebration of the program's thirty-second 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 1 million Grab & Go meals for children eighteen years old and younger. Visit www.helpendhunger.org/event/chefstable2021 for Online Auction access starting September 25th.

IT'S A DATE!

SEPTEMBER

Hunger Action Month® | FEEDING AMERICA

Food shouldn't be an impossible choice.

SEPT 17



DRIVE AWAY HUNGER
Golf Tournament

SEPT 20-24



An exhibition of structures made from unopened cans of food on display at Jepson Center for the Arts

Judging & Awards Gala Sept 24

OCT 5

Chefs' Table

A benefit for Kids Cafe

NOV 5

"Earth to Table" Empty Bowl Tour
Brunswick



VOLUNTEER WORD FUN

FIND THESE WORDS!

- BOXES
- ESSENTIAL
- HELPFUL
- SELFLESS
- SUPPORT
- COORDINATE
- FOOD
- IMPORTANT
- SERVICE
- TEAMWORK
- DISTRIBUTION
- GRATEFUL
- REWARDING
- SIGNUP
- TIME

C S L K P B T S L F I T L I G
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FEEDING FUR FAMILIES, TOO



In celebration of our 40th Anniversary serving Coastal Georgia, we are incorporating forties into everything we do this year.

In July, we received the second truckload of 40,000 pounds of pet food donated from PetSmart Charities®. What a tremendous gift we could share with partner rescues and humane societies.

Pets are truly beneficial to a person's physical health and mental well-being. If we can assist with feeding the pets of those in need, it's a winning effort for both two and four legs alike.

PET SMART
Charities

