

food thought

WINTER 2022

2021: THE NUMBERS SPEAK VOLUMES

America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia distributed **28,127,452 pounds of food** throughout the 21 counties we serve.

SCHOOL PANTRY



The School Pantry program supplied **1,967 boxes/bags of meals** to assist **1,024 families** in need in Chatham and Glynn counties.



KIDS CAFE

The Kids Cafe program prepared and delivered **831,322 nutritious meals** to 105 partner sites for children at risk of hunger.

PARTNER AGENCIES



241 non-profit and faith-based partner organizations help us nourish those in need.



BACKPACK BUDDIES

Second Harvest provides food for more than **5,000 Backpack Buddies** every week.



MOBILE FOOD PANTRIES

We touched the lives of **89,926 households** across Coastal Georgia with **235 Mobile Food Pantries** that distributed **7.8 million pounds** of fresh produce, proteins, dairy and non-perishable items.



BROWN BAG

12,060 bags of non-perishable groceries were provided to senior citizens.

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Savannah, GA 31404
912.236.6750

www.helpendhunger.org



From the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

If I were to choose any word to describe the last few years battling the COVID-19 pandemic, it would be: **change**. It's something we have all had to become comfortable with as we transition to what many are calling the new normal—and it has been anything but easy.

Walking through the aisles of your local grocery store, you may notice that prices on everyday food items are changing rapidly and becoming more expensive than ever before. In December 2021, the USDA published a report that the cost of food increased by 4% in 2021 and is estimated to rise approximately 5% more in the first half of 2022. With food and fuel costs increasing, it is even more difficult for low-income families and seniors to make ends meet. The rising cost of food also makes it much more difficult for food banks to find nutritious food options to keep shelves stocked and communities healthy. And yet, despite these changes being an unexpected challenge throughout 2021, the outpouring of support shown by our community through local food drives, volunteers, and monetary donations has once again demonstrated how our neighbors continue to come together to support one another in times of need.

Moving forward, accepting change is imperative to growth. In order to be the best food bank we can be, we all must accept that change can also be the beginning of a wonderful journey. **With your help, we can continue to welcome change as we fight hunger across Coastal Georgia.**

With gratitude,

Mary Jane Crouch
Executive Director

JOIN THESE HUNGER HEROES and Take Action Against Hunger





Pictured L - R Ann Marie Dalis, Cynthia Horowitz, Elizabeth Holliday, Marilyn Eigen, Kalista Morton, Lila Magbee and Hannah Roberts

Earth to Table Tour

The Fall of 2021 marked the 7th Annual Empty Bowl—Earth to Table Tour—presented by Glynn Visual Arts (GVA) to benefit our Brunswick branch. The first Empty Bowl was merely a ceramics project created by a Michigan high school teacher, John Hartom, to raise awareness of hunger in the community. Empty Bowl is now a globally recognized event spanning 31 years of ceramics that make a difference.

Event chairs, Lila Magbee, Ann Marie Dalis, and Kalista Morton designed a unique grand tour with seventeen fantastic Brunswick and St. Simons Island restaurants and shops. Each location showcased their very own “Earth to Table-scape” featuring a set of four handmade bowls crafted by local artisans representing each unique location. Patrons were encouraged to pick up a “Pottery Passport” and dine, shop, bid and support local businesses. Passports were stamped upon visiting each participating shop or restaurant.

Table-scape packages and individual bowls were gathered at GVA for final bid and sale, Empty Bowl raised an astounding \$10,565—the equivalent of 52,825 meals. This event is always a tremendous effort to help nourish our neighbors in Southeast Coastal Georgia. We are thrilled to be part of such a wonderful event and look forward to what 2022 has to offer for our 8th Annual Empty Bowl.

Feeding The Future In Glynn County

In June 2021, we announced that we were awarded a \$1.5 million grant from the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) in order to enlarge our Brunswick branch. Our excitement has since risen threefold as we increased our grant request to DCA and were approved for \$3.5 million. The scope of our project took a slight change of course and our plan is to purchase and renovate an existing 53,000 square foot warehouse. The cost of the completed project is estimated at \$4.6 million, and the DCA grant stipulates that we are to raise 25% in order to fulfill the grant requirements.

In November 2021, we successfully met the match on the \$500,000 pledge offered by Sea Island, along with The Anschutz Foundation. We are now \$1 million closer to our goal thanks to the generosity and support of Sea Island, The Anschutz Foundation, and all the donors who rose to the occasion to help us reach the \$500,000 challenge.

The Brunswick branch serves the counties of Brantley, Camden, Charlton, Glynn, McIntosh and Wayne, partners with 62 agencies and distributed more than 5.4 million pounds of food in 2021. To meet the rising demand, we must increase our storage capacity and distribution abilities. It has long been a goal of ours to build a commercial kitchen in Brunswick where we can prepare Kids Cafe meals for the children. We have also reached our limit for volunteers because we lack adequate space to pack and store Brown Bags for the Elderly and Mobile Food Pantry boxes.

Feeding The Future is a \$4.6 million capital campaign that is vital to increasing capacity for food assistance. This funding will allow us to reach more families, individuals, children, elderly and those with disabilities who struggle with food insecurity in Southeast Georgia.

SCAN HERE and see the updated proposal for Glynn County expansion.



Authentic Southern Hospitality in Action

From health to safety to employment, COVID-19 has changed so many things for so many people. The pandemic has also amplified one of the most basic human needs and the issue at the heart of Second Harvest: alleviating hunger.

In April of 2020, 91% of hospitality and tourism workers in the Savannah Metropolitan area filed for unemployment. That's 25,300 hardworking individuals in the Savannah tourism family that no longer had a job.

Second Harvest heard the call and joined forces with the Tourism Leadership Council (TLC), the Chamber, Visit Savannah, the Downtown Business Association and the City of Savannah to host a mobile food pantry distribution on River Street. We all knew we needed to help feed these individuals, who until the pandemic, held proud careers feeding others.

In recognition of this tremendous effort, Mary Jane Crouch, Executive Director of America's Second Harvest, was selected by the TLC as the recipient of the 2021 I AM TOURISM Award. The honor is awarded to an individual who exemplifies the tenets of integrity, commitment, selfless service, hard work, and kindness.



Excerpt from the speech of Michael T. Owens, TLC CEO/President:

"I can tell you that we filled up hundreds of trunks with food and fresh produce. After just an hour, the line of cars still stretched more than one and a half miles long. Mary Jane didn't leave the lifting to the volunteers that day. Masked up and ready to work, she loaded boxes for hours, only taking a break to join live news interviews to invite more to come down and get nourishment for their families.

For almost 20 years, Mary Jane has been an unstoppable force for good in our community. If these 20 months have taught us anything, it's perhaps most important that we collectively recognize that, in the blink of an eye, you and your family could become a recipient of her efforts rather than a donor or volunteer.

Mary Jane, we are truly humbled by your work in our community. It is a high calling to work tirelessly to see to the needs of our neighbors, our colleagues, and our community. Through your action and deeds, you set the example for service for our community. Your compassion and generosity proved that you truly are a member of our tourism family. You are Tourism."

That selfless sense of service to the community is alive in our work every day through the generous donors, partnerships, supporters, fundraisers, foundations, and tireless acts of our volunteers. It imbues life into our motto—"Leading the effort to end hunger and improve lives"—and drives us all to make that statement real.



*Mobile Food Pantry Distribution
on River Street, Savannah
Photo by @SavannahAerials*

Serving Up Hope in Grace's Kitchen

Before most people have their first cup of coffee, our incredible team of staff and volunteers at Grace's Kitchen have begun preparing thousands of hot meals for children at-risk of hunger in Coastal Georgia. Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have served more than 4,500 children facing hunger in our community—something that would not be possible without the tireless support of our volunteers.

As an invaluable resource, volunteers play a key role in supporting our food bank. Volunteer hours may be worth more than you know. In 2020, the estimated value of a volunteer hour in Georgia reached an astounding \$26.77—an increase of nearly 5% from 2019. On average, 10 volunteers work alongside 9 staff members five days a week and contribute over 10,000 hours of volunteer time each year to prepare an average of 4,200 individually plated hot meals daily. This means that our kitchen volunteers contribute an astounding \$267,700 annually to our organization.

Volunteering can provide numerous personal benefits like staying active and healthy, making new friends, and providing hope that, one day, we will live in a world without hunger.

Some of our biggest fans are our volunteers. Whether it's a brief check-in on social media or telling friends and family about our mission, our volunteers are excellent representatives. By sharing their passion with other members of the community, we are able to reach more potential volunteers and accelerate our impact across Coastal Georgia.

We are indebted to all who have volunteered with us at Grace's Kitchen and served up hope for thousands of children suffering from food insecurity. Despite the challenges we have all faced during the pandemic, we are humbled by the passion of our volunteers. Without their continued dedication, we would be unable to reach the children and families who need us.

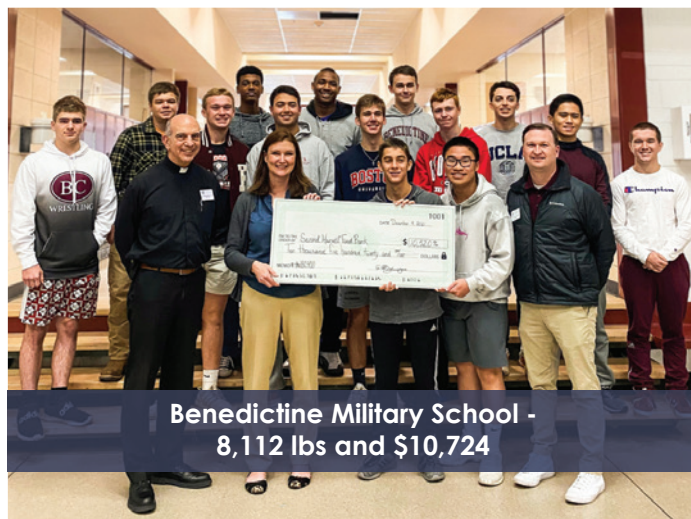
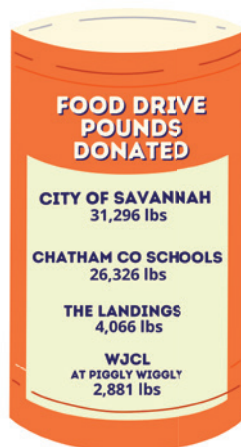
We invite you to join this fantastic group of individuals and help serve hope to hungry children. Contact our Food and Beverage Director, Sarah Maier, at smaier@helpendhunger.org.



Food Drive Success

Hosting a food drive is one of the great ways we are able to keep our shopping area well-stocked for our partner agencies. And, despite the hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic, our community proved that it was up for the challenge and kept our shelves full over the holidays. Every can, box, bag, or dollar truly makes a difference in the life of one of our neighbors in need. During the holiday season, we had a record-breaking show of support from dozens of food drives. In total, we received 113,518 pounds of non-perishable food.

We are so thankful to all of the wonderful individuals, businesses, schools and organizations who have collected groceries and monetary donations—no matter how large or small.



BROWN BAG VOLUNTEER SATURDAYS

Volunteers Needed To Pack Food Bags For The Elderly

2022

FEB 19 FULL	MAR 12 FULL	APR 23	MAY 14	JUN 18
JUL 16	AUG 13	SEP 17	OCT 15	
NOV 19	DEC 17			

REGISTRATION REQUIRED TO PARTICIPATE

SHIFTS START PROMPTLY AT 8AM
VOLUNTEER SPOTS LIMITED TO 40
CANNOT ACCEPT WALK-IN VOLUNTEERS



SCAN TO REGISTER

WORD SEARCH FUN

BOWL
CAMPAIGN
CHANGE
DONATE
FUTURE
GIVE
GRATITUDE
GROW
HOPE
HOSPITALITY
NUTRITION
VOLUNTEER

N G E F S H E J A V P A J O O
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L O U Y N O I T I R T U N W R
N F H E H G R L G B B A E U F
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FIND THE WORDS ABOVE!



Made possible by Naney and Ken Larsen

Saturday, March 26 at 9am
Deer Creek Course at the Landings Club



To register, scan the QR Code →