

# food thought

WINTER 2023

## 2022: BY THE NUMBERS

By organizing food drives, donating your time and finances, and sharing our message you are helping us make big strides toward our mission to #helpendhunger in Coastal Georgia.



A TOTAL OF 22,882,222 POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED IN 2022.



**17,316  
BROWN  
BAGS FOR  
THE ELDERLY**

Once a month volunteers pack brown bags with non-perishable groceries that are distributed to local senior citizens by our partner agencies.



**2,993  
SCHOOL  
PANTRY  
BAGS**

Through a partnership with Sea Island®, 18 Glynn County Schools are able to assist school children and their families with emergency school pantry bags.



**750,892  
KIDS  
CAFE  
MEALS**

Our Kids Cafe kitchen staff, drivers, and volunteers make it possible to provide nutritious, hot evening meals to 85 Kids Cafe locations across 8 counties.



**151,759  
SUMMER  
FEEDING  
MEALS**

Five days a week, when school is out for summer break, we provide breakfast and lunch for children who would otherwise go without.



**272  
MOBILE  
FOOD  
PANTRIES**

Strategically placed throughout our 21 county service area, we distributed 4.6 million pounds of fresh produce, proteins, dairy, and non-perishable items.

**IN 2022 WE MADE AN IMPACT.**

**IN 2023 WE'RE STRIVING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**

## 2023 Board of Directors

Susannah Pedigo,  
President

Tom Pace,  
Past President

Dan Umbel,  
Vice President

Karen Bogans,  
Secretary

Miller Glover,  
Treasurer

Erica Backus  
Gary Bocard  
Clayton D. Cheshire  
Lawrence Dorman  
Andrew Dyer  
Glenn Ferrell  
Litt Glover  
Lindsay Harlander  
Kevan Jackson  
Nick Laybourn  
Quentin Marlin  
Allison Marrero  
Michael Owens  
Lisa Pinyan  
Amy Repella  
Gary Sanchez  
Mark Thompson  
Tracey Tollison  
Susan Whitaker

2501 East President Street  
Savannah, GA 31404  
912.236.6750

[www.helpendhunger.org](http://www.helpendhunger.org)



# From the Executive Director

Dear Friends:

This past year, we continued to support our communities grappling with food insecurity but did see a slight decline in the need for assistance from 2021. Overall, we still experience an increase in need up 20% from 2019, pre-Covid reality. As we reflect on the challenges that we all face with inflation at an all-time high, supply chain issues that haven't leveled off, and perpetual shortfalls in food donations, we can confidently say that Second Harvest has made a positive impact on the community. It wouldn't have been possible without you. Each person who has invested their time, energy, influence, and resources into our mission is helping us to end hunger in Coastal Georgia. We are immensely grateful for your support!

Looking forward, we are excited about both the growth of our Brunswick branch as we expand into a larger building and the exciting construction of our new campus in Savannah. These developments will offer countless opportunities for new and improved ways to reach our service area, expand our capabilities to provide meals and services to those in need, and host even more volunteers! We hope that you will follow along on our journey toward maximizing our potential to make a difference in 2023.

In 2022 we made an impact. We created a means for our community to make "ends meet," and we offered a temporary source of sustenance. In 2023 we are striving to make a *difference*. We are aiming to create a space that educates, empowers, and enables those who struggle with food insecurity to change their lives. We know it's a bold goal, but with community partners like you, we have no doubt that we can make a difference for our neighbors in need.

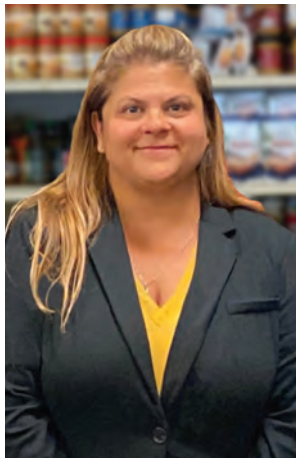
With gratitude

Mary Jane Crouch  
Executive Director

## JOIN THESE HUNGER HEROES and Take Action Against Hunger



## Welcome, Jennifer Floyd!



Please join us in welcoming Jennifer Floyd as Manager of our Brunswick Branch. Jennifer comes to us after 24 years in retail-focused roles, most recently at the management level. As for her career pivot to join Second Harvest, Jennifer sums it up best: she wants to make a positive impact on our community.

“I loved managing people! But there was something missing. I was looking out for the business—exceeding goals, keeping failing stores open, and maintaining them to turn a profit. I was making money, working long hours, and doing everything I could, but for what?”

Jennifer joins us with experience in the food insecurity sector. As a member of the Board of Directors for a Henry County food bank, Jennifer gained invaluable knowledge in grant writing, active fundraising, and event management—raising funds for the Children’s Miracle Network. She currently sits on Glynn County Library System’s Advisory Board and was recently appointed to the Board of Directors for the Glynn

County Family Connection, where she continues to cultivate her leadership and networking skills. All of this experience makes her a great asset to join the Brunswick team as we prepare for expansion into our new 50,000-square-foot building. Operations have quickly outgrown the current space of 5,000 square feet.

Jennifer and her team are excited to grow capacity, increase agency distribution, and gain space for a volunteer center and a Kids Cafe commercial kitchen. This growth will have a tremendous effect on the communities they serve. “If I could only share all of the stories of who, what, when, and how this job has given me a new way of looking at the world we live in, I’d be able to write a book.”



# CALLING ALL LAW FIRMS AND LEGAL ORGANIZATIONS— WE NEED YOU TO JOIN THE LEGAL FOOD FRENZY!

APRIL 17 - 28, 2023

The Georgia Legal Food Frenzy is an annual two-week fundraising competition created in partnership with the Georgia Attorney General, the State Bar and YLD, and the Georgia Food Bank Association.

The competition is open to everyone in the legal community to see which law firm, legal organization, and corporate/ in-house counsel can have the biggest impact on hunger.

Sign-up to compete at [www.galegalfoodfrenzy.org/sign-up](http://www.galegalfoodfrenzy.org/sign-up) beginning on February 15.



## Food Drive Partners



### Parker's Kitchen Gives Back

As part of an ongoing commitment to give back to the community and to be a force for positive change, Parker's recently donated \$94,659 to Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia through the company's inaugural round-up campaign, which encouraged customers to round up their purchases to the nearest dollar.

Parker's customers in Georgia donated \$75,388 over a four-month period, with Parker's matching 25% of each customer donation.

All proceeds in Georgia were administered through the Parker's Community Fund, which supports area nonprofits dedicated to making a positive, measurable impact in key focus areas, including education, healthcare, and hunger. All round-up proceeds in South Carolina were donated to the Lowcountry Food Bank.



"At Parker's, we think it's extremely important to give back to the communities that have supported us over the years and to do our part to help reduce hunger right here in Savannah, where our company is based," said Parker's founder and CEO Greg Parker. "We are incredibly grateful to our customers in Georgia for their generosity during our inaugural round-up campaign and want to continue to be a force for positive change."



### Benedictine Military School



Led by the Junior ROTC and Student Council, Benedictine Military School students have organized an annual food/fund drive for many years—but this year they beat their previous record by 3,853 pounds for a grand total of 11,965 pounds and \$10,424. Students and staff credited the senior class for their encouragement and dedication during the Neighborhood Drive, which was vital in boosting this year's donations. Engaging our community's youth in our mission to assist our neighbors with food insecurity is imperative in making a lasting change. The annual tradition of organizing donations fosters a sense of community and ownership for the BC students—and is a shining example of young men making a positive impact in their community.



### City of Savannah



Every holiday season, we look forward to a tremendous canned food donation made possible through the generosity of the City of Savannah employees. Cars, trucks, and emergency vehicles gathered at our warehouse to unload a whopping total of 33,985 pounds of food—beating the previous year's donation.

Acknowledged as being "the most generous" service centers were Community Services and Infrastructure Development. We are so very grateful for a community that shows so much passion for our mission and dedication to our cause.

## Gathering for Good Inaugural Agency Partner Conference

Representatives from nearly 50 Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia partner agencies attended our inaugural Agency Conference in January. The conference featured information sessions on recruiting and retaining volunteers, capacity building, and fundraising with the goal of inspiring, motivating, and empowering the community leaders who manage food-assistance programs across our 21-county service area.

Keynote speaker Savannah Mayor Van Johnson kicked off the day's activities with an enthusiastic and heartfelt message. Quoting the lyrics of "Food, Glorious Food" from the musical *Oliver!*, Mayor Johnson commended the group comprised of primarily volunteers for their roles in increasing access to nutritious food for our neighbors in need. The Mayor compared them to other first responders, saying "You might be the difference between someone having a meal and someone sleeping in despair."

Second Harvest Chief Operations Officer Kyle Harding led a panel discussion about recruiting and retaining volunteers. Panelists Sarah Maier and Emilie Loelke (Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia), along with Laurie Humphries (United Way of the Coastal Empire), shared their insights on connecting with groups and individuals who share a passion for their work. They provided tips on creating satisfying roles for volunteers and advice for keeping them involved for the long term.

Consultant Shannon Bates McClure (One Heart Non-Profit Strategies) led a learning session on capacity building, helping attendees understand the concept as an investment in their organizations' effectiveness and future sustainability. She guided attendees through a goal-setting exercise, identifying obstacles to overcome and the steps necessary to reach the end goal.

McClure also shared her expertise in fundraising, including grants, individual giving, and special events. She emphasized the importance of relationships and storytelling in successful fundraising and gave advice on how to stand out in a grant proposal.

Attendees enjoyed networking with each other and participated in the required annual agency training. With the success of this inaugural conference, Second Harvest looks forward to making it a yearly offering.





# Wine & Wildflowers

## Jewels & Jeans

Live Music  
Heavy Hors D'oeuvres  
Full Bar

Thursday, April 20, 7 -10 PM  
\$100 individual ticket

Purchase Tickets Online at  
[www.helpendhunger.org](http://www.helpendhunger.org) or  
scan the QR code



# WORD SEARCH

S T R Z A S S I S T N E I G H B O R  
P A C Z Z X W R W S U C C E E D V A  
A H T Z T L C E L X M D W C B Z J P  
R G Y I O X P L B E N E F I T H O P  
T K O S S O I A K H E A L T H Y E V  
N K F U D F L T R C F D F Q A R N O  
E U R P X U Y I W X D L E C E Z G L  
R B I P R H Q O G R E U Z P N F A U  
C B E O X F G N A L X B C S C Z G N  
W O N R W A A S A D A C U H O S E T  
B Z D T X V Y H N B B O Y H U U M E  
Z S R A D E D I C A T I O N R V E E  
J Z S Y W S Y P X V Y Z Q G A S N R  
R F Q N E D P G R O N L N F G D T O  
F U N D R A I S E C H A L L E N G E

- |              |           |            |          |
|--------------|-----------|------------|----------|
| ENGAGEMENT   | VOLUNTEER | DEDICATION | SUPPORT  |
| CHALLENGE    | BENEFIT   | SUCCEED    | NEIGHBOR |
| RELATIONSHIP | ENCOURAGE | FUNDRAISE  | PARTNER  |
| FRIEND       | ASSIST    | HEALTHY    | SATISFY  |



Club Car  
Championship  
at  
THE LANDINGS  
GOLF & ATHLETIC CLUB

# ELIMINATE HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

**SUNDAY MARCH 19 • 9AM**  
DEER CREEK COURSE AT THE LANDINGS GOLF & ATHLETIC CLUB

**OUTRUN HUNGER**  
FORE KIDS CAFE 5K

SPONSORED BY  
NANCY & KEN LARSEN

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE THE RETURN OF THE OUTRUN HUNGER FORE KIDS CAFE 5K Sponsored by Nancy and Ken Larsen. Join us Sunday, March 19 at 9AM, for a 5K through the Deer Creek championship course. Walkers, runners, strollers and dogs are welcome. Space is limited to 300 participants.

[clubcarchampionshipattlc.com/tournament-info/schedule-of-events/5k-kickoff](http://clubcarchampionshipattlc.com/tournament-info/schedule-of-events/5k-kickoff)



# BROWN BAG VOLUNTEER SATURDAYS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO PACK FOOD BAGS FOR THE ELDERLY

2023

- |           |            |           |           |           |
|-----------|------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| MAR<br>11 | APR<br>15  | MAY<br>20 | JUN<br>24 | JUL<br>15 |
| AUG<br>19 | SEPT<br>16 | OCT<br>21 | NOV<br>11 | DEC<br>16 |



Ensuring that Senior Citizens in our community have enough food to last through the end of the month.

Individuals and groups must sign up in advance.  
Visit [helpendhunger.org/take-action](http://helpendhunger.org/take-action) or call 912-721-1795.

Brown Bag Saturdays start promptly at 8 A.M.  
Arrive by 7:45 A.M. for sign-in and orientation.