

TABLE TOPICS



Summer 2020



IN THIS ISSUE:

You're Helping Respond and Rebuild at This Critical Time

PAGE **3**

You give kids like Allison a Hunger Free Summer

PAGE **6**

Thanks to you, we're here to feed Tennesseans when they need us most



We're So Grateful You Support Your Neighbors



Dear Friend,

There's no doubt we've had to overcome a lot the last few months. Since March 3, our community has lost family members, homes, businesses, income, and much more. But one thing we have not lost is hope.

When speaking with our clients, I'm in awe of their perseverance and strength. In spite of it all, our clients mostly speak of gratitude. Gratitude for what they have left, for what could've happened but didn't. Gratitude for the food Second Harvest provides.

Second Harvest has fed hundreds of thousands of meals to disaster victims and neighbors affected by the pandemic this spring,

significantly increasing the work of our usual feeding programs and food deliveries.

Your trust makes it all possible. At Second Harvest we're confident we have the infrastructure and know-how to navigate disaster response. But we can't do it alone. It is your faith in us — your willingness to support us — that keeps food going out the door no matter what.

And now it's summer. During the school year, free and reduced-price meal programs provide a safety net for children. But with those programs still on hold during summer break, our local kids are at serious risk of hunger. This year the

risk is especially critical as schools closed three months early and our community is still recovering.

But we have a can-do spirit. We have the right tools, relationships, and talent. We've survived crises before, including the 2010 flood, and our community knows how to pull together. This summer will be a real challenge, but with your support, we are up to the task.

With my sincere thanks,

Nancy Keil
President & CEO

OUR MISSION

TO FEED HUNGRY PEOPLE AND WORK TO SOLVE HUNGER ISSUES IN OUR COMMUNITY

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lucia Folk
Board Chair

Shawn Williams
Board Vice Chair

Lisa Gardi
Board Secretary

Drew Berg
Board Treasurer

MEMBERS

Jeff Aiken
Greg Allen
David Alperson
Michelle Bonnett
Scott Bowers
Brian Bowman
David Bradley
Suzanne Buchanan
Jim Burton
Lee Cunningham
Melissa Eads
Troy Edwards
Bruce Esworthy
Andy Flatt
Dave Fulmer
Dennis Georgatos
Charlsey Graham
Dr. Shanna Jackson
Jennifer Peters
Sharon W. Reynolds
Tony Rose
Derek Schraw
Ute Strand
Laquita Stribling
Katherine Tosh
Ken Watkins

Ad Hoc Member

Jonathan Flack

Ad Hoc Interns

Jake Martino
Margaret Claire Walker

President & CEO

Nancy Keil

You Give Kids Like Allison the Hope of a Brighter Future

Allison, 8, and her little brother, Kevin, 5, are bright, happy and active kids. Allison's bilingual and often serves as an interpreter for her mom, Maria, who speaks Spanish. You'd never know from her cheery spirit that Allison faces hunger.

Kids are often much more insightful than we realize. Allison tells us fruits and vegetables are important for children like her "so they can get stronger, be healthy and not get sick."

“Thank you for the food!”

Thankfully, she and Kevin can access good nutrition through McMurray Middle School, which partners with Second Harvest to serve balanced after-school meals when school is in session, and provide groceries to local families through the school's food pantry.

Allison and Kevin love fresh produce, especially watermelon and apples.

Their mom appreciates being able to provide nutrient-rich snacks for her little ones.

“This helps feed us,” Maria says of the pantry. “It gives us food to survive.”

Healthy food is vital to the kids' immune systems, development, and learning. Allison loves geography and reading biographies. She was excited to finish a book about Ruby Bridges, the first African-American girl to go to an all-white

school. Your generosity gives her — and so many other kids — the fuel they need to thrive.

“Thank you for the food!” Maria says, through her daughter's translation.

You make a real difference in the lives of children in need, and your support is more needed and appreciated than ever as we work to help our neighbors rebuild. Thank you for helping make this a Hunger Free Summer!



ALLISON AT MCMURRAY MIDDLE SCHOOL IN SOUTHEAST NASHVILLE

Learn more about Second Harvest's response to COVID-19 and recent tornadoes at secondharvestmidtn.org/disasterresponse2020.



Find past issues of our newsletter and donor acknowledgment page at secondharvestmidtn.org/news.

Your suggestions and comments for *Table Topics* are always appreciated! Please send an email to news@secondharvestmidtn.org



We're So Grateful You Support Your Neighbors



VANESSA AND FAMILY



LAURA AND HER MOM

LAURA IS PAYING HER GRATITUDE FORWARD

Laura Harper grew up in a large southern family where food was a central component to family gatherings — and the offerings were always bountiful.

Every day after a healthy breakfast, Laura went to school with a packed lunch and returned to her mom's homemade dinner. On Sunday after church, Laura's 97-year-old grandmother still makes a family lunch that rivals holiday meals.

"It is unimaginable to me what hunger and food insecurity feels like, and I know how fortunate I am to have never been in that position," says Laura, a marketing manager for Sprint who lives in Christiana.

Motivated by gratitude, Laura and her husband, Andy, are monthly donors. "I see the direct impact Second Harvest makes in my community and I'm so grateful to them for all the lives that are improved by their work."

Please join Laura and Andy as a *Second Helpings* monthly donor at secondharvestmidtn.org/monthly. Ready to upgrade your monthly donation? Call Destiney Patton at 615-627-1611.



TERRY AND TINA



TERESA AND MELINDA

EVENT NEWS

BETTER DAYS ARE COMING



Because we care about your safety, we have postponed our major spring and summer fundraising events. This includes Generous Helpings and Stars for Second Harvest.

This pains us because we love seeing you all in person and sharing great times with you. We rely on event income to help support our feeding

programs, but right now it's essential to err on the side of caution.

Please keep an eye on our Events Calendar and your email inbox to see which events have been rescheduled after the risk has passed. And who knows, we may even try to host some type of virtual event.

In the meantime, please take care of yourself. We can't wait until the time when we can all gather again and clink glasses to toast you, our friends.

#TennesseeStrong

Thanks to you, we're here to feed hungry people when it matters most

In the wake of disaster this spring, demand for our services has increased exponentially. Thankfully, we have you – supporters who saw the need in our community and stepped up to help.

This is just a small snapshot of the good work Second Harvest has been able to do thanks to your unflagging kindness and generosity. None of this would have happened without you!



Putnam County was one of the hardest hit by the tornadoes. Here clients and volunteers pray together before the start of a Mobile Pantry at the Monterey Mission Center on March 7. At this time there were still many road closures, but Second Harvest drivers were up to the challenge and got 25,000 pounds of food to Monterey.



Even though tornadoes tore off the roof of their 135-year-old church, the congregation at Mt. Bethel Missionary Baptist Church was determined to help provide disaster relief to their neighbors in Nashville's Buena Vista neighborhood. This distribution on March 7 was a collaborative effort between Second Harvest, Mt. Bethel, and But God Ministries.



Rosemary, like many affected by recent events, is a first-time food bank client. She never thought she'd ever need help like this. But she lost her food during the tornadoes, and then the esthetician's clients canceled because of the pandemic. That's how the single mother wound up at a Second Harvest food distribution at Dodson Chapel in Hermitage on March 12.

"I didn't think it was for me. I have a roof over my head, electricity, a car that runs, and my family and friends are safe. But my friend told me, 'this is for you.' And for the first time I realized, 'yes, yes, this is for me.'"



Volunteers from Les Dames d'Escoffier Nashville and the McGruder Family Resource Center prepping meals for the American Red Cross shelter in Nashville's Centennial Sportsplex on March 12. This is an example of Second Harvest's strong partnerships in action. We introduced these parties to each other and helped them secure a space to prepare their food and a venue to distribute meals.

"With everything that is going on, it's great to know you have places you can count on when times get rough. I can't thank you enough."

First-time food pantry clients, Kierra Smith and her daughters Na'riah and Ja'miah, receiving Second Harvest disaster relief food boxes during a food distribution at McGruder Family Resource Center in North Nashville on March 13.



When health officials instated new COVID-19 guidelines, Second Harvest had to evolve to ensure clients, volunteers, and staff are always safe. This no-contact drive-thru is one example of how we pivoted our food distribution models.

Here, Second Harvest works alongside Metro Nashville Public Schools to distribute boxes of food at Glencliff High School on April 3. These USDA-provided food boxes included rice, pasta, canned food, eggs, and frozen meat.

A volunteer carries food to a client's car at a drive-thru distribution at Smithson Craigs Smith Academy in Madison on April 8. Thistle Farms provided bagged breakfast and lunch meals and Second Harvest supplemented with fruit and canned goods.

This is just one example of how Second Harvest worked with partners to start our Summer Food Service Program months early, knowing our at-risk kids' schools were closed so these children weren't getting free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches.



Learn more about our continued response at secondharvestmidtn.org/disasterresponse2020.

Rose and Paw Say Thank You

Rose and her dear friend, Paw, both immigrated to the United States from Thailand. The move was a huge adjustment for both women.

“We had to start everything new,” Rose remembers. “It’s very different. New language... many, many things.”

Both she and Paw married men who work at a food processing plant. Paw used to work in housekeeping at a hotel but now spends her days chasing around her little boys, ages 2 and 3, and her young daughter, 5.

Rose also has three children — ages 6, 11, and 16. She and Paw do their best to make their family budgets stretch. But both admit there are times when they need help. This spring has been especially challenging with COVID-19 affecting their kids’ access to school meals.

Fortunately, they found out through their kids’ school that there’s a Second Harvest Food Bank Mobile Pantry that visits the Nashville Fairgrounds. They’re truly grateful for the fresh fruit and vegetables and other pantry staples they use to prepare healthy meals for their families.

“We appreciate you,” Paw says to friends like you. “Thank you for giving us food. We want to say thank you and God bless you.”

Countless neighbors like Paw and Rose are giving thanks for you right now. Thank you for sharing what you have!

“ We want to say thank you and God bless you. ”



Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee
The Martin Distribution Center
331 Great Circle Road
Nashville, TN 37228
secondharvestmidtn.org

To learn more about getting involved, join our online community
@2HarvestMidTN



Or visit us online at
secondharvestmidtn.org