



About Kids Cafe

Kids Cafe is a national program of Feeding America-The Nation's Food Bank Network that provides guidance and support to over 200 food banks nationwide. In order to make a significant impact on childhood hunger in coastal South Carolina, the Lowcountry Food Bank launched the first ever Kids Cafe program in South Carolina in 2000. The goal of Kids Cafe is to feed hungry children in afterschool and extended learning programs providing academic and life skills mentoring and development, in environments that are accessible and safe for at-risk children in our community. Kids Cafe is one of the largest charitable meal service programs in the country, providing free prepared meals and nutrition education to food insecure children. The Lowcountry Food Bank seeks out high quality community partners to become Kids Cafes in the 10 coastal counties in our service area. Continuing to successfully expand the Kids Cafe program is a primary goal of our comprehensive childhood hunger initiative, the *End Childhood Hunger Campaign*, launched in 2010.

Kids Cafe Partners and Programs

The Lowcountry Food Bank Kids Cafe community partners are representative of the diversity of our local organizations and agencies. Our current Kids Cafe sites include The Salvation Army, YMCA, Elementary Schools and faith-based organizations located throughout our service area.

The Lowcountry Food Bank uses the core goals and objectives established by Feeding America for program guidance, as we work with existing and potential Kids Cafe partners to develop innovative strategies and solutions to meet the specific needs of the children in our unique communities. Agencies that partner with the Lowcountry Food Bank as Kids Cafes are able to access low and no cost food to provide free, nutritious hot meals and snacks, and nutrition education as part of their afterschool programs. There are presently 13 Kids Cafes serving nearly 900 children per day within our 10 county service area; 7 in the tri-county, 3 in Beaufort, 2 in Georgetown and 1 in Horry County.

The long awaited opening of our 1600 square foot, full-scale Zucker Family Production Kitchen in August, 2010, has enabled the Lowcountry Food Bank to implement a new ***Food Works*** program model for Kids Cafe that prepares hot, nutritious meals onsite for 6 Kids Cafe locations in Charleston County. Rolling out this exciting new program to additional Kids Cafes in the tri-county is a key childhood hunger initiative for the coming year with an estimated 100,000 prepared meals planned for the ***Food Works*** Kids Cafe program in 2012-13.

By leveraging the full potential and possibility of the Zucker Family Production Kitchen, the Lowcountry Food Bank will continue to more comprehensively address hunger and its root causes by implementing new, innovative programs to feed children, families, and seniors that are suffering the devastating effects of ongoing food insecurity in coastal South Carolina.