

The Lowcountry Food Bank  
Serving the Ten Coastal Counties of South Carolina

## Annual Report—2002



# Our Vision — The Hunger Free Zone

A Hunger Free Zone is a geographic area in which a hungry person is no more than five miles from emergency food services, and no agency is further than one hour from a food bank distribution center.



Helping us reach new levels of service by bridging the gap between government programs, and local food pantries, faith-based organizations, schools and other organizations closest to those being served.

As you look at the above map, you can see that we have expanded our operations—one main distribution center and two branches. In 2000, we opened the Beaufort County Branch in Yemassee to better serve our membership in Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties. In 2002, we opened the Grand Strand Branch in Myrtle Beach to provide better access for our membership in Georgetown and Horry Counties.

# Welcome

Dear Friends,

All of us live with our share of myths. One of the myths of our culture is that hungry people are in need of food because they do not work, or do not want to. Our observation of the people who receive our food is exactly the opposite.



Most of the people who receive food through our network of over 400 agencies have at least one and sometimes two working persons in their family. In fact, some people work two jobs in their attempt to make ends meet. The reality of our time is that you cannot support a family, or yourself, on a minimum wage job in our culture today. If you do not have any benefits or health insurance, then the slightest illness can ruin a family quickly.

This annual report shows how we distributed more than \$16,000,000 worth of donated food to the hungry last year. It went to hungry children and elderly as well as to working persons who have fallen on difficult times. We will continue to meet those food needs as we continue to be the second fastest growing food bank in the country in percent of increase over the past six years.

But we are also worried about those persons who just do not make enough money to support their families, or who have no job at all. To deal with this we are presently opening our first Community Kitchen in Beaufort County. This kitchen, in addition to supplying food to two Kids Cafes, will also train about 40 persons a year in culinary arts. These underemployed and unemployed students will be ready at graduation to assume well paying jobs in local restaurants throughout the Lowcountry. It is our first attempt to take persons who need our food and help them make a good living while being producers of food. We are excited about the prospect and we will let you know about its success.

Thank you for your support of the Lowcountry Food Bank.

Sincerely,



Archie D. McRee  
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

The mission of the Lowcountry Food Bank is to feed the hungry in coastal South Carolina, which includes the ten counties of Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Georgetown, Hampton, Horry, Jasper, and Williamsburg. Our vision is to create a ten-county Hunger Free Zone, which is a geographic area in which no person is more than five miles from emergency food services and no agency is further than one hour from a food bank distribution center.



It is estimated that 27% of all the food that is produced in this country every year is discarded or thrown away. It is this food, in part, that the Lowcountry Food Bank seeks to obtain and then make available to those children, elderly, and working adults who need it. By effectively managing its operations, every dollar that the Food Bank receives in donations makes \$20.00 of market value food available to the hungry. With three distribution centers in our region--North Charleston, Yemassee, and Myrtle Beach--the Lowcountry Food Bank distributed a record of nearly 10,000,000 pounds of food this past year. Clearly the purpose of the Lowcountry Food Bank, which is to attack hunger by reducing food waste, is being fulfilled every day in the Lowcountry through the dedicated work of the agency's Executive Director, Archie McRee, and his outstanding team of staff members. This annual report highlights the many ways in which the Lowcountry Food Bank over the past year has served a vital role in our community by serving thousands of hungry people in coastal South Carolina.

Serving as a clearinghouse for the solicitation, storage, and distribution of donated food to non-profit organizations and churches operating food programs for the hungry, the Lowcountry Food Bank continues to depend on the support of the local community, whether through the donation of time, food, or money. We hope that you will continue to support our efforts to educate and feed individuals and their families in order to help meet their basic needs.

Sincerely,



Dr. Stephen D. Parker  
Chairman

# Highlights in 2002

## Record 1 MILLION Pounds Distributed in October

We established a new record in our twenty-year history by distributing a record 1,065,450 pounds of donated food products in October. This is the first time our organization has distributed one million pounds of food in a single month. This record in distribution equals nearly 800,000 meals served.

“This new level of food distribution is a good sign of our efficient

staff of 22 employees that is truly dedicated to feeding the hungry. This increase in food distribution is also a good sign that our network of more than 400 agencies continues to become more effective in identifying and meeting the needs of their communities,” comments Archie D. McRee, Executive Director.

Jermaine Husser, Chief Operating Officer, “This record 1 million

pounds is good news in coastal South Carolina, but we are a long way from ending hunger! The bad news is that as the economic divide between the rich and the poor becomes greater, the working poor continue to struggle even more.”

This increase in food distribution reflects our long-term commitment to creating a hunger free coastal South Carolina.

## New Branch in Myrtle Beach

We opened a new branch in Myrtle Beach on June 18, 2002. The Grand Strand Branch provides emergency food services to 61 member agencies who feed needy families in Horry and Georgetown Counties.

“We have had a tremendous response from Horry and Georgetown County agencies and the public at large in the short time we have been open,” comments

Wendell Smith, branch manager. Hunger and poverty are prevalent in this area. Recent US Census data shows that an average of 22.2% of all children and youth in these counties are living in poverty.

For many years, we delivered truckloads of food from our Charleston-based distribution center to our membership in Horry and Georgetown Counties. Mr. Smith comments that “with the branch

here in Myrtle Beach the food can reach even more people in need.” In its first year of operation, this branch distributed more than 1.8 million pounds of donated food, which was a 60 percent increase in services to these counties. In 2002, more than 15,500 households in Horry and Georgetown Counties received USDA food—a two-fold increase in services.

## Hunger and Homelessness Services Database on Our Website

The Hunger & Homelessness Services database serves as a comprehensive listing of more than 400 emergency food services and programs throughout the ten coastal counties of South Carolina. This database was established in the year 2001 with the financial support of the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation.

The Hunger & Homelessness

Services database helps us to clearly understand the current state of emergency food service in our communities, and, in turn, makes these services better accessible to the community. We use this database to measure our performance, recruit new member agencies, and to plan future programs. This database has greatly increased our ability to communally share vital

data on emergency food providers and homeless shelters with the Department of Social Services, United Way offices, 211 Hotline, city/county officials and other local agencies. Access this database at [www.lowcountryfoodbank.org](http://www.lowcountryfoodbank.org) by clicking on the Search the Hunger and Homelessness Database button at the bottom of the homepage.

## 2002's Top Community Food Drives

1. US POSTAL SERVICE  
67,695 LB.
2. PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS  
10,818 LB.
3. COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON  
7,211 LB.
4. OAKBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL  
4,595 LB.
5. JAMES ISLAND COUNTY PARK  
4,224 LB.
6. GREGG MIDDLE SCHOOL  
2,011 LB.
7. GIRL SCOUTS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY  
1,798 LB.
8. WESTVACO  
1,424 LB.
9. NORTH CHARLESTON ROTARY CLUB  
879 LB.
10. SEDGEFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL  
847 LB.

TOTAL AMOUNT DONATED  
**101,502 LB.**

## Top 10 Food Banks in Percentage Growth in Distribution\*

- |                         |       |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 1. Ottumwa, IA          | 1445% |
| 2. Lowcountry Food Bank | 1044% |
| 3. Logan, OH            | 705%  |
| 4. Grand Rapids, MN     | 596%  |
| 5. Elizabeth City, NC   | 589%  |
| 6. Albuquerque, NM      | 561%  |
| 7. Lansing, MI          | 429%  |
| 8. Springfield, OH      | 408%  |
| 9. Ft. Meyers, FL       | 395%  |
| 10. Columbia, SC        | 365%  |

\*Percents based on overall growth from 1996-2001 for America's Second Harvest Affiliates.

# Highlights in 2002

## Starting School Year Off On Right Path

Two new Kids Cafes opened in 2002. Students Achieving Valued Education (S.A.V.E.) Kids Café celebrated its grand opening on September 17 at Asbury-St. James United Methodist Church in downtown Charleston, and Because We Care Kids Café celebrated its grand opening on October 16 at Bethel AME Church near Greeleyville.

S.A.V.E. is directed by Tom Slawson as an outreach program for elementary school children in the Hampton Park community. Each day after school, children receive one-on-one tutoring from volunteers from the College of Charleston,

the Citadel, the Navy Base, MUSC, and local church members. Students from Johnson & Wales prepare the nutritious meals.

Because We Care Kids Café is the only Kids Café serving Williamsburg County. Dr. Cynthia McClorin and Bethel AME Church offer this rural community a place where children receive academic assistance and computer training in addition to needed hot, nutritious meals.

Contact Fouchina Kirkendoll at (843) 747-8146, ext. 109 or [fkirkendoll@lcfbank.org](mailto:fkirkendoll@lcfbank.org) for more information.

## Chefs' Feast 2002

On March 24, 2002, the Lowcountry Food Bank and Embassy Suites Airport—Charleston Convention Center hosted Chefs' Feast 2002: Turning the Tide on Childhood Hunger. For the third year running, Chefs' Feast, our annual gala, took place at the Embassy Suites Airport—Charleston Convention Center. The black-tie event featured 15 of the Lowcountry's finest chefs and restaurant, including Robert Carter of Peninsula Grill as

the coordinating chef. Turning the Tide on Childhood Hunger raised more than \$53,000 for our Kids' Cafe program, which provides hot nutritious meals and academic assistance to disadvantaged children in an environment which is safe and accessible. For every dollar donated to our mission, we provide more than \$20 in market value foods. Chefs' Feast 2002 generated more than \$1 million in market value foods!

## New Addition to Our Trucking fleet

The Ford Motor Company and America's Second Harvest, our national affiliate of food banks, donated a 1997 Ford Aeromax Tractor to the Lowcountry Food Bank in 2002.

With additional support from the Bakker Family Fund of The Community Foundation Serving Coastal South Carolina and Publix Super Markets Charities, we purchased a used 48-foot refrigerated trailer. This combination greatly increases our ability to transport

more fresh produce and perishable foods from 15,000 to 44,000 pounds per trip.

"We thank the Ford Motor Company and America's Second Harvest for their generous donation of a Ford tractor. This tractor gives us the ability to haul nearly three times the amount of food using the same amount of fuel," comments Bill Hicks, Warehouse Manager. "We're on the road everyday with this tractor-trailer combo, getting food donations from Columbia, Charlotte and Valdosta."



## How do we feed the hungry?

We collect and distribute donated food products to non-profit agencies and faith-based organizations serving the hungry in the ten coastal counties of South Carolina.

## Who's hungry?

The majority of our clients are working parents trying to support their families, senior citizens unable to pay for the rising cost of food, and children living below the poverty level. According to a recent US Conference of Mayor's report, nearly 70% of all individuals requesting emergency food assistance in the Charleston area are the working poor.

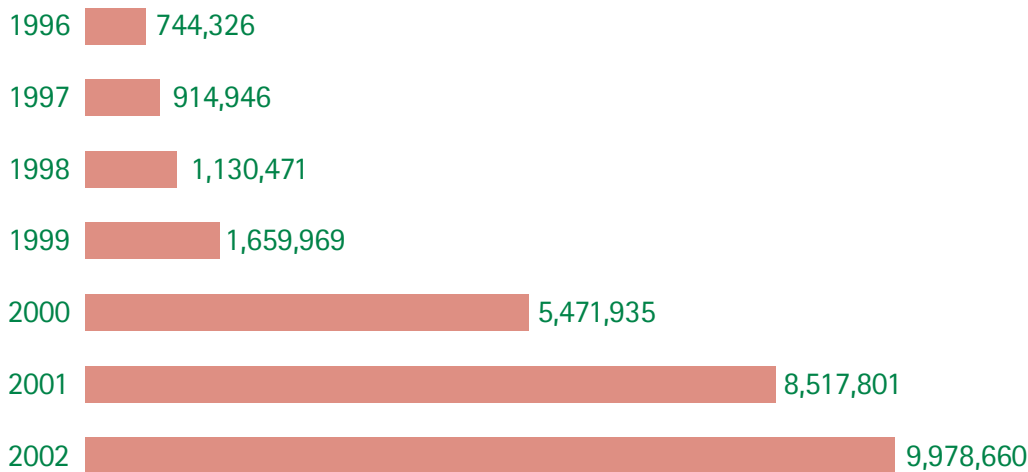
## Who benefits?

The hungry in our community have a reliable source of free food. Non-profit agencies and faith-based organizations save millions of dollars in grocery bills each year—money to reinvest in their missions. Food producers and grocery stores save dumping fees and earn a tax deduction.

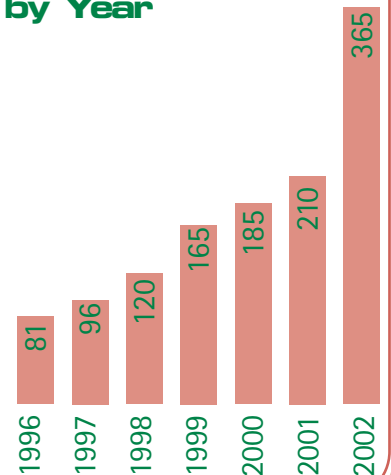
For every \$1 donation you give to the Lowcountry Food Bank, we make available \$20 worth of market value food products to the hungry.\*

\*This figure is certified by Peat Marwick's assessment of a \$1.68 per-pound value for reclaimed food.

### 1996 to 2002 Total Pounds Distributed Per Year to Membership



### 1996 to 2002 Total Membership by Year





## Statistical information on the year 2002

- We distributed **9,978,660** pounds of donated food products in 2002.
- We had a **17.2%** increase in distribution over the previous year.
  
- It cost us **12¢** per pound to get food in and out the door.\*\*
- The average shared maintenance fee for our member agencies was **4.6¢** a pound.
- This means that we made a **7.4¢** per pound donation to our agencies for every pound of food an agency got from us ( $12¢ - 4.6¢ = 7.4¢$ ). This means that **\$738,420** of our 2002 budget was an outright donation to our member agencies.
  
- We distributed **3,043,713** pounds of USDA (TEFAP) food in 2002.
- We were reimbursed **6.3¢** for each pound of TEFAP distributed.
- We, therefore, had to underwrite TEFAP by **5.7¢** per pound ( $12¢ - 6.3¢ = 5.7¢$ ).
  
- We distributed **6,934,947** pounds of non-USDA (TEFAP) food.
- All non-USDA food had an average shared maintenance cost of **6.62¢** a pound.

\*\*Cost out the door in 1998 was 26 cents; in 1999 it was 19 cents; in 2000 it was 14 cents; in 2001 it was 12.2 cents.

## 2003 board of directors

### OFFICERS

Stephen Parker, *Chairman*

Alison Standard, *Vice-Chair*

Jim Bongalis, *Secretary*

### DIRECTORS

Jim Bongalis, *Publix Supermarkets*

Tom Campbell, *Flagpoles & Flags Co.*

Denise Carpentier, *Saunders Woodworks*

Carl Falk, *Falk-Griffin Foundation*

Dr. Barry L. Gleim, *Trident Technical College*

Chuck Lauer, *Embassy Suites Airport/Charleston Convention Center*

Paul Loy, *Northwoods and Citadel Malls*

Wannetta Mallette, *City of North Charleston*

Anne Medio, *School's Out Charleston*

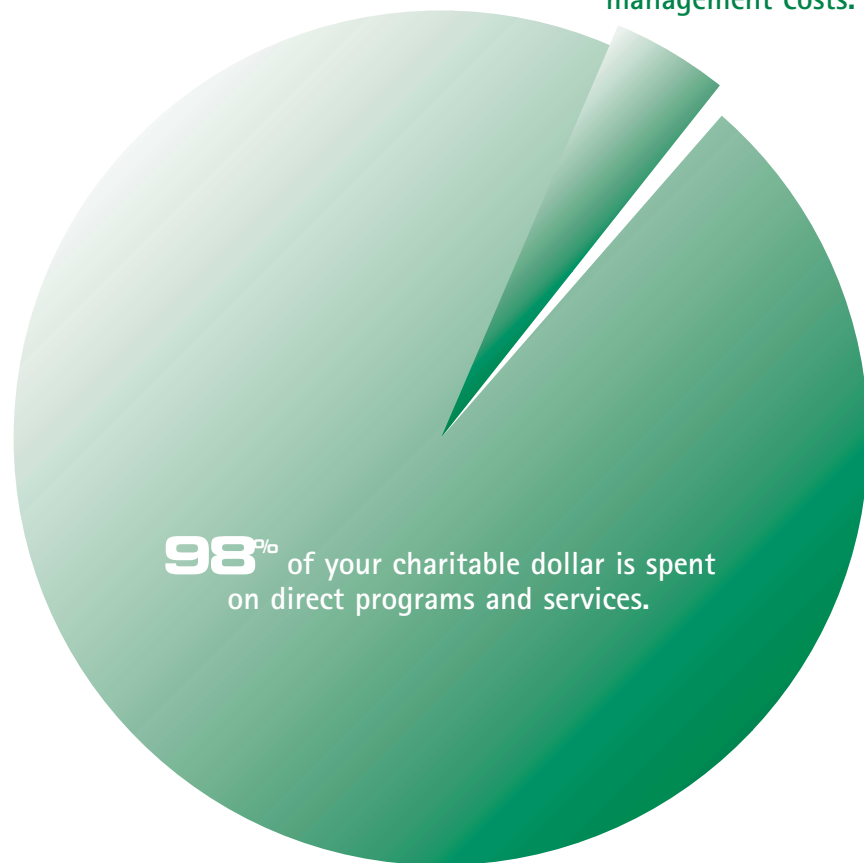
Stephen Parker, *Johnson & Wales University*

Alison Standard, *A. Standard Enterprise, Inc.*

## a breakdown of your charitable dollar

The Lowcountry Food Bank's finances are audited each year by an independent, certified accounting service. For a copy of the Lowcountry Food Bank's most recent financial statement, please contact us at (843) 747-8146 ext. 105.

**2%** of your charitable dollar is spent on fund-raising and management costs.



## types of food received April 1, 2002 to March 31, 2003

Fresh Produce	1,255,126 pounds
Dairy (includes eggs)	124,374 pounds
Meat/Seafood (fresh and frozen)	881,376 pounds
Baked Goods	89,742 pounds
Frozen Foods (excluding meat/seafood and prepared foods)	1,745,083 pounds
Juice	166,490 pounds
Other (such as dry/canned goods, food drives, reclamation)	5,704,231 pounds

**Grand Total**  
**9,966,422 pounds**

# statement of activities

## January 1, 2002 to December 31, 2002

### SUPPORT & REVENUE

#### Support

Donated Inventory (market value of food)	\$12,230,222
USDA Donated Inventory (market value of food)	\$ 2,067,326
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 370,000
Corporate and Foundation Grants	\$ 299,071
Government Grants (TEFAP, FEMA, CSFP, CBG)	\$ 213,812
Individual Contributions	\$ 150,444
Trident United Way	\$ 84,627
Annual Fund Raising Events – Chef's Feast	\$ 54,360

#### Revenue

Shared Maintenance Revenue	\$ 459,220
Miscellaneous	\$ 12,364
Interest Income	\$ 1,637
<b>Total Support &amp; Revenue</b>	<b>\$15,943,083</b>

**Total Support &  
Revenue**  
**\$ 15,943,083**

### EXPENSES

Program Services	
Food Distribution	\$15,380,428
Supporting Services	
Management and General	\$ 212,117
Fund-Raising	\$ 93,811
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$15,686,356</b>

**Total Expenses**  
**\$ 15,686,356**

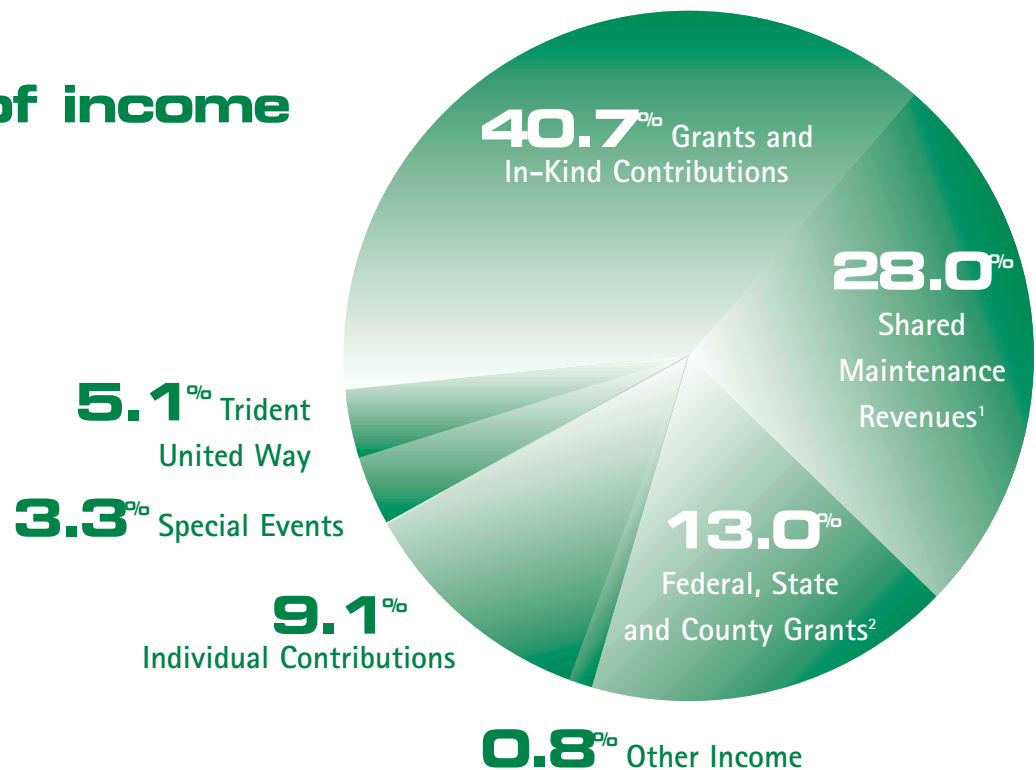
**Net Assets  
End of Year**  
**\$ 1,404,253**

Change in Net Assets	\$ 256,727
Net Assets Beginning of Year (as restated)	\$ 1,147,526
Net Assets End of Year	\$ 1,404,253

## sources of income

<sup>1</sup>Shared Maintenance Revenues represent the 4.6 cents that member agencies contributed per pound of food received. This food has a certified market value of \$1.68 per pound, saving local charities an estimated \$16,304,928 in the year 2002.

<sup>2</sup>Funding provided by USDA's The Emergency Food Assistance Program; USDA's Commodities Supplemental Food Program; FEMA Awards from Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester, Hampton, Horry, and Williamsburg Counties; Community Development Block Grants from Charleston County, City of Charleston, and City of North Charleston.





## a grassroots network of more than **400** member agencies

We collect, inspect, and maintain otherwise wasted food products from manufacturers, food distributors, the government, supermarkets, farmers and wholesalers. We then distribute this donated food to a grassroots our member agencies, i.e. churches, synagogues, food pantries, soup kitchens, orphanages, homeless shelters, healthcare agencies, senior homes and children's programs.

## bridging the **gap** between public and private resources

Through The Emergency Food Appropriations Program (TEFAP), we are the sole distributor of USDA products to the poor and hungry in coastal South Carolina. This relationship with the SC Department of Social Services provides better quality food on a consistent schedule, greatly reducing barriers to access, and saving the taxpayer money by distributing these government commodities in coastal South Carolina.

## Beaufort County and Horry County operations

Our Beaufort County Branch, located in Yemassee, supports charitable emergency food providers in Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties. Our Grand Strand Branch, located in downtown Myrtle Beach, supports charitable emergency food providers in Horry and Georgetown Counties.

## rural drop shipments to underserved areas

Our organization makes drop shipments of food to member agencies located more than one hour from our facility in Charleston, saving them both time and money. Providing food to isolated, rural communities in Berkeley and Williamsburg Counties is our primary focus.

## Kids Café Targets Childhood Hunger

Kids Café provides hot nutritious meals and academic assistance to disadvantaged children in an environment which is safe and accessible nutritious after-school meals for needy children. This program serves the basic goal of feeding hungry children, which leads to better grades in school and overall better health in children.



## **gleaning fresh produce improves nutrition**

Every year, millions of pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables are neglected by commercial harvesting methods. Reviving an ancient practice known as gleaning, volunteers go to local farms, salvage left-over crops, and take this produce to our organization before it spoils. We, then, distribute this produce to our member agencies.

## **beaufort nutritional council**

The Beaufort Nutrition Council is a collaboration of non-profits, church groups, the SC Department of Social Services, schools, county government officials, healthcare professionals, Johnson & Wales University, and the Medical University of SC. This council addresses the issues of hunger, food insecurity and the nutritional needs of low-income families in Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton, and Jasper Counties

## **hunger & homelessness services online database**

This database is a comprehensive listing of more than 400 emergency food providers and homelessness services in the ten coastal counties of South Carolina. This on-line resource is available on-line at [www.lowcountryfoodbank.org](http://www.lowcountryfoodbank.org).

## **charleston regional distribution center**

Our main distribution center is a 37,000 square foot, rent-free facility located on the former Naval Base in North Charleston. This locale oversees, maintains, and organizes all food reclamation for coastal South Carolina.

## **nutritional education committee**

Our Nutrition Education Committee is a culmination of dietitians, nutritionists, chefs, Kids Café Directors, and our staff that address the need for our member agencies and food recipients to learn about nutrition and the benefits of eating healthy. This committee works closely with the Clemson Extension Service, Charleston Trident Dietetic Association, and Dietetic Interns from the Medical University of SC.



## **LOWCOUNTRY FOOD BANK**

1635 Cosgrove Avenue  
Charleston, SC 29405  
(843) 747-8146

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

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## **Special Issue 2002 Annual Report**

## **we feed the hungry...**

In 2002, we collected and distributed almost 10 million pounds of food products to nearly 400 agencies serving the poor and hungry in coastal South Carolina. This donated food has a certified market value of \$16,680,000.

Because the cost of reclaiming these food products is much lower than their market value, the Lowcountry Food Bank provides \$20 in market value food products for every dollar donated.

## **thank you for your support!**



# **1st ANNUAL AGENCY RELATIONS CONFERENCE**

**PREPARING THE FIELD FOR HARVEST  
EDUCATING and NETWORKING  
for a HUNGER FREE South Carolina**

October 29-31, 2003  
Springmaid Beach Resort  
Myrtle Beach

Bringing Together Our Grassroots Network  
of 400 Member Agencies In The Fight Against Hunger

Contact Ron Pringle, Agency Relations Director,  
to learn how YOU can become a part of this conference  
at (843) 747-8146, ext. 116