



GRADE 'A' NEWS FROM THE
LOWCOUNTRY FOOD BANK

letter from the executive director

Dear Friends,

We can quote all kinds of hunger statistics. We can track and account for every pound of food distributed. We know that 27% of all food produced in America is thrown away. We can prove that for every dollar we receive we can distribute \$20 of market value food. But these numbers do not put a face on hunger.

Here is one face to consider. Nine-year-old Shana lives with her working Mom and little brother. Everything was fine until her brother got sick. Shana is a smart little girl in school but she tends to be drowsy and has trouble paying attention. The family does not have food right now because of medical bills and no insurance. Shana gets a free lunch at school but that is about all she is eating. Thanks to an observant teacher, Shana was enrolled in one of our Kid's Cafes, an after school feeding and tutoring program. Shana gets help with homework and is fed a hot meal, needed nutrition she was missing. She is now excelling in school and is no longer hungry.

Shana would not starve without our programs or our food. But a potential school dropout with health problems now has the chance to live up to her potential and live a healthy, happy, productive life.

Thank you for your gifts that will allow Shana to become the happy, productive little girl she was meant to be.

Archie McRee
Executive Director

Fresh eggs

“ In October, we set another all time record. In a single month, we distributed 1,065,450 pounds of food. This is the first time we have distributed this amount of food in a single month! ”

— Archie D. McRee,
Executive Director of the Lowcountry Food Bank

Record 1 MILLION Pounds of Donated Food Distributed in October

Even though the Lowcountry Food Bank (LCFB) ranks SECOND in the nation among 198 food banks in the percentage of growth in the distribution of food over the past six years, the organization established a new record in its twenty-year history by distributing a record 1,065,450 pounds of donated food products in October. This is the first time the LCFB has distributed one million pounds of food in a single month.

“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 of the LCFB.

Jermaine Husser, Chief Operating Officer of the Lowcountry Food Bank says,

“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 record in distribution equals nearly 800,000 meals served in October.

For nearly twenty years, the Lowcountry Food Bank continues to provide donated food to faith-based organizations, food pantries, soup kitchens, orphanages, homeless shelters, healthcare agencies, senior homes, children's programs and other nonprofits that feed the hungry. In 2002, the organization hopes to distribute 10.5 million pounds of food to more than 400 member agencies in the ten coastal counties of South Carolina. *That means roughly 7,000 people could have three meals a day for a year!*

This increase in food distribution reflects the Lowcountry



Pastor Robert Duddlestone of Calvary Lutheran Church of Charleston shops at the Lowcountry Food Bank three times per month for the church's food pantry and soup kitchen.

Food Bank's long-term commitment to creating a *Hunger Free Zone* in coastal South Carolina by operating a distribution center in Charleston and two branches in Myrtle Beach and Yemassee. The Lowcountry Food Bank will continue to expand its cost-effective model of operation to insure that a hungry person is no more than five miles from a reliable, nutritious source of free food.

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how to contact us

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103 Bill Hicks, *Warehouse Manager*
104 Liz Holt, *Bookkeeper*
105 Judi Hamilton, *Office Manager*
106 Ron Pringle, *Dir. of Agency Relations*
107 Nicole Jackson, *Agency Relations*
109 Naadia Bakhit, *Dir. of Com. Outreach*
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Grand Strand Branch

Wendell Smith, *Warehouse Manager*
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Agency relations

Agency Spotlight



Barbara Mains uses the S.O.S. HealthCare's Variety Club—Sunshine Coach van to pick up food at the Grand Strand Branch.

Leading the heavy weight division—distributing more than 200,000 pounds in five months from the Grand Strand Branch in Myrtle Beach, and serving over 150,000 meals to thousands of seniors and children through-

out Horry County is Mrs. Barbara Mains, Children Director of S.O.S. HealthCare Caring 4 Kids!

SOS HealthCare has been serving the communities in Horry County since 1983 by providing medical assistance and food to those in need. Mrs. Mains coordinates food delivery to rural communities in western Horry County. "The need is great in this area where so many *working poor* live," comments Mrs. Mains. "We deliver food door-to-door,

not only to insure that the food is getting where it's most needed, but because these same people have no access to an emergency food provider." SOS Caring 4 Kids oversees two youth centers in Loris and Cedar Branch that provides tutoring and hot meals.

When told of being chosen as Agency Spotlight, Mrs. Mains simply replied, "Thanks, but we're just working." That is why we commend Barbara Mains of SOS Caring 4 Kids and her entire staff for being a true model agency.

Warehouse & distribution

Second In Nation Among 198 Food Banks

The warehouse staff would like to thank our agencies for helping us to distribute more than 10 million pounds of donated food to the needy in 2002. *We are having an ongoing difficulty in finding enough canned goods to meet the needs of our agencies.* This is a widespread problem throughout our network of 198 food banks nationwide. We strongly encourage you to start a food drive in your community! For more information about starting a food drive, visit our website at www.lowcountryfoodbank.org or call us at (843) 747-8146.

Top 10 Local Food Donors in 2002*

	in pounds
1. Piggly Wiggly Carolina	891,657
2. Community Food Drives	219,382
3. Food Lion	84,165
4. US Postal Food Drive	68,188
5. PYA/Monarch	64,496
6. Mepkin Abbey	59,330
7. Commodity Supply Co.	42,840
8. Harris Teeter	34,813
9. Alfa Supply, Inc.	5,019
10. DiMare Johns Island, Inc.	5,008

TOTAL AMOUNT DONATED

1,474,898

*Based on Dogwood Inventory poundage report from Jan. 1-Nov. 18, 2002.

Starting school year off on right path

Two new Kids Cafes have recently opened. 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.

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.

The Kids Café nutrition education program has been greatly strengthened by collaborating with Clemson Extension Service and the Charleston Trident Dietetic Association. Two Kids Cafés receive further instruction through enrichment activities conducted by MUSC Dietetic Interns.

With such a great start to the school year, the Kids Café program is bound for great things to come! Keep posted. Call 747-8146, ext. 109 for more information.

Teresa Chikuma, a College of Charleston undergraduate majoring in Education, assists Greg Simmons, a 2nd grader at James Simmons Elementary, with his mathematics during S.A.V.E.'s after school Kids Cafe program.

Recent Partnerships Support Growing Need For Food

The Lowcountry Food Bank relies on local and national partnerships to support its mission to provide a dependable source of nutritious food to those in need. This year, we hope to collect and distribute 10.5 million pounds of food.

Recent partners include:

- **Bi-Lo Bags Hunger and the Bi-Lo Charity Golf Classic**—a \$2,740 gift and a \$4,000 gift, respectively, in support of our mission to feed the poor and hungry
- **Falk-Griffin Foundation**—a \$28,860 grant in support of the start-up costs to the Grand Strand Branch, which opened in June of 2002.
- **Federal Emergency Food and Shelter FEMA Program**—over \$17,000 in funding in support of food distribution to member agencies in Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester, Hampton and Williamsburg Counties
- **The Ketner Family Fund of The Community Foundation Serving Coastal South Carolina (TCF)**—a \$5,000 award in support of our mission to feed the poor and hungry in coastal South Carolina
- **Kraft Non-Shelf-Stable Food Program**—a \$32,000 award to expand the collection/distribution of non-shelf-stable foods (i.e. vegetables, frozen meat) by purchasing a cargo van, forklift and scale for the Grand Strand Branch
- **The Open Grants of TCF**—a \$9,000 award in support of the ongoing cost of transporting donated food to our member agencies in Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester and Williamsburg Counties
- **The Jerry and Anita Zucker Family Endowment of TCF**—a \$5,000 gift in support of our Kids Cafés located in Berkeley, Charleston and Dorchester Counties

Thanks to these generous donors we continue to expand our cost-effective model of distributing donated food products to more than 400 member agencies in coastal South Carolina.

New Partnership with Charleston Apartment Association

On October 22, 2002, David Pete, President of the Charleston Apartment Association (CAA), presented the Lowcountry Food Bank with a \$3,677 gift—money raised at their first annual charity golf event.

“The Charleston Apartment Association is proud to give back to our community through an organization

with such incredible buying power that you can take \$1 and turn it into \$20 worth of food! We are proud to do our part!” comments Melinda Longhorn, Associate Publisher of Apartment Finder and member of the CAA’s Charleston Cares Committee.

With our large mission, we cannot succeed without the

dedication and involvement of organizations like the Charleston Apartment Association who share our passion and belief that the Lowcountry Food Bank has a *Common Sense Solution to Hunger*.



Charleston Apartment Association presented \$3677 check in October.



LOWCOUNTRY FOOD BANK

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we feed the hungry...

In 2002, we will collect and distribute 10.5 million pounds of food products to more than 400 charities serving the poor and hungry in coastal South Carolina. This donated food has a certified market value of \$17,745,000.

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 \$1 you contribute.

thank you for your support!



Recent Kids' Café Donors

Ice covers the Lowcountry—Lions and Tigers and Bears Oh My!

When can you see lions playing in the snow in Charleston or Monkeys on ice skates? October 10, Disney on Ice's "Jungle Adventures" came to town and with them came food donated by Girl Scouts of Carolina Lowcountry. Disney on Ice and the Girl Scouts of Carolina Lowcountry partnered to do the "Bear Necessities" Food Drive (inspired by the song from the Jungle Book). Girl Scout troops from Dorchester and Charleston Counties competed to collect the most food. Each troop was invited to come to the Lowcountry Food Bank and have their food weighed. The winning troop won free tickets to the Disney on Ice show. Congratulations to Girl Scout Troop #240 who donated over 1000 pounds of food to the hungry! You go girls!



Girl Scouts met Disney ice skaters when they dropped collected food off at the Lowcountry Food Bank.