



GRADE 'A' NEWS FROM THE
LOWCOUNTRY FOOD BANK

letter from the executive director

Dear Friends,

There are too many hungry children in South Carolina! Recent findings are painting a picture of the tremendous costs of food insecurity and hunger among young children. Kids from food-insecure homes have poorer health and are sick more often. Growing up hungry makes kids sick. Because of hunger they miss more days of school and are less prepared to learn when they are able to attend. The relationship between hunger, health, and learning is of greater importance than previously realized. The presence of hungry children in our state is an outrage. However, even if we did not care about the moral issues of childhood hunger in a nation that throws away 27% of all food produced, we should know that hunger costs hundreds of millions of dollars down the road in health expenses, behavior problems and loss of good educated workers.

This year we will distribute over 10,000,000 pounds of donated food. Much of it would be thrown away if we did not recover it. That food has a market value of over \$15,000,000. It's not enough. We have to become advocates for hungry children at all levels. Feeding hungry children is the moral thing to do, and, it makes good economic sense.

For a copy of *Consequences of Hunger and Food Insecurity for Children* from the Center on Hunger and Poverty at Brandeis University, give me a call at 747-8146. Thanks for giving and thanks for caring.

Archie McRee
Executive Director

Fresh eggs

“The people along the Grand Strand have a big heart and it is reflected in the wonderful support they have shown us. With their continued help, the Grand Strand Branch will continue to grow.”

— Wendell Smith, *New Grand Strand Branch Manager of the Lowcountry Food Bank*

Lowcountry Food Bank Opens New Branch in Myrtle Beach

Myrtle Beach, SC – The Lowcountry Food Bank officially opened a new branch at 200 South Broadway in Myrtle Beach on June 18, 2002. The Grand Strand Branch provides emergency food services to a growing network of 66 agencies that have a vested interest in feeding the poor and hungry in Horry, Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties.

Mr. Wendell Smith of Socastee has been hired as the new branch manager. “We have had a tremendous response from Horry, Georgetown and Williamsburg county agencies and the public at large in the short time we have been open,” he says.

Hunger and poverty are prevalent in this three-county area. Recent US Census figures show that nearly 29% of all children are living in poverty in Georgetown, Horry and Williamsburg Counties. Nearly 16% of the total population in Horry County lived in poverty in 1995. According to 1997 US



Leroy Capers of *Farmers of Today* prepares barbecued chicken for the Grand Strand Branch's *Pig Pickin'* grand opening. Mr. Capers and Williams Meyers, a Food Bank employee, provided lunch for agencies and quests.

Census estimates, of all persons below the poverty line 28.3% of the population was in Williamsburg County and 18.6% of the population was in Georgetown County.

For many years, the Lowcountry Food Bank has been delivering truckloads of food from its Charleston-based distribution center to its member agencies in Horry, Georgetown and Williamsburg Counties. Mr. Smith comments that “with the branch here in Myrtle Beach the food can reach even more people in need.” It is hoped that this new

branch will distribute 1 million pounds of donated food products in its first year of operation and 2 million pounds in its second year.

Mr. Smith forecasts that “within 6 months I fully expect to be open for shopping 5 days a week and receive 3 to 4 trucks per week. With the large amount of freezer and refrigeration space available in the Grand Strand Branch, we will be offering a much wider variety of product for the agencies and act as a distribution site for frozen foods for the Lowcountry Food Bank.”

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Grand Strand Branch

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Agency relations

Agency Spotlight – Bethlehem Baptist Church in Kingstree



Mr. Joe Tisdale of Bethlehem Baptist Church in Kingstree picks up an order of food for the church's pantry.

Drum roll please! And this quarter Agency Spotlight goes to—Mr. Joe Tisdale of

Bethlehem Baptist Church in Kingstree, S.C. Under the leadership of Pastor Lavern Brown, Mr. and Mrs. Tisdale and Mr. Jacob Wilson diligently worked together to distribute more than 47,000 pounds of food from January to June. So far this year, they provided more than 1,200 people in Kingstree with free, nutritious food twice each month. Bethlehem Baptist Church has been an active member agency of the Food Bank since 2000, and has increased their distribution tremendously over the years. In spite of the

many funding and volunteer uncertainties, Mr. Tisdale continues the program, even when he had to financially support the program himself. Mr. Tisdale is a strong believer in God, and believes with faith and perseverance all things are possible. If you are looking for Mr. Tisdale, you can find him at Bethlehem Baptist Church in Kingstree every other Monday working hard, bagging food to distribute on the following Tuesday from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm. Mr. Joe Tisdale of Bethlehem Baptist Church is a true model agency.

Warehouse & distribution

Second In Nation Among 198 Food Banks

Because of your continued support, guidance and faith in our mission, the Lowcountry Food Bank ranks SECOND in the nation among 198 food banks in the Percentage of Growth in the Distribution of Food over 6 Years. This growth represents a 1044.36% increase in distribution from 1996 to 2001.

Our vision is to eliminate hunger and its causes in South Carolina by the year 2004 by creating a food safety network where a hungry person is never further than five miles from a source of good, nutritious food. This is becoming a reality because of you!

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.



Robert Wilson, Warehouse staff, loads a pallet of food for an agency order with the new CAT electric pallet jack donated by the Exchange Club of Charleston.

Local Partnerships Support Growing Need For Food

The Lowcountry Food Bank relies on local 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. This can not be achieved without the generosity of local partnerships.

• In May, the Charleston County Community Development Block Grant program awarded the Lowcountry Food Bank \$15,284. The Food Bank will use this grant to transport and distribute 750,000 pounds of food and grocery products to 130 agencies in Charleston County.

• The Joanna Foundation of Sullivan's Island has been a committed supporter of the Lowcountry Food Bank since 1999, providing more than \$17,000 toward the general operating cost of distributing food to our network of Tri-County member agencies. In April, the Joanna Foundation awarded the Lowcountry Food Bank with a \$5,000 gift.

• The Exchange Club of Charleston donated \$5,200 to the Food Bank in March at their annual Community Service Day. This award purchased two manual pallet jacks, one electric pallet jack and a dual AC/Heating unit for

the food sorting room. Since 1988, the Exchange Club of Charleston contributed nearly \$115,000 to important capital expenditures, such as a 300 square-foot freezer, a forklift, shopping carts, a cargo van, and the construction of two new offices.

With such a widespread service area and the increasing need for emergency food services in our communities, we cannot succeed in our mission without the continued dedication of local partnerships that share our passion and belief that the Lowcountry Food Bank is committed to ending hunger.

Hunger & Homelessness Services Database On Our Website

The Hunger & Homelessness Services database serves as a comprehensive listing of more than 365 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. The Lowcountry Food Bank uses

this database to measure its performance, recruit new member agencies, and to plan future programs. You can access this database at www.lowcountryfoodbank.org by clicking on the Search the Hunger and Homelessness Database button at the bottom of the homepage.

kids café program

Enthusiasm Spilling over from National Conference!

What was the Food Bank's Director of Community Outreach and two Kids Café Directors doing in Washington D.C. this summer?

Sponsored by a \$1000 scholarship from Capital One, Naadia Bakhit – the Food Bank's Director of Community Outreach, Angie Kollars – I.T.E.C. Youth Services Kids Café Director, and Earnestine Johnson – New Birth New Life Kids Café Director attended the first annual America's Second Harvest National Programs Conference on Kids Cafes and Community Kitchens, held June 13-15 in Washington D.C. Kids Café is a nationally acclaimed after-school feeding and tutoring program for children living in poverty.

The three attended workshops on a diversity of topics such as conducting feasibility studies, running an effective community kitchen, child nutrition programs, and Kids Café Management.

For Ms. Bakhit, the most exciting thing was "to see how different Food Banks across the country are using integrated programs to extend themselves into their communities through food, Kids Cafes, job-training, and nutrition education initiatives."

Anxious to share the information, ideas, vision, and enthusiasm gained from the conference, the team will meet with the Kids Café Advisory Board and the Kids Café Directors to consult on new possibilities for the Kids Café Program.



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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 365 charities serving the poor and hungry in coastal South Carolina.

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!



Kids' Café Wish List— Thanking Recent Donors

We want to thank Alicia Williams, Linda and Marvin Howard, Martha Zierden and the Buist Academy Cub Scouts Den 7, St. Hilda's Guild of St. Timothy's Anglican Church, and Teresa Pitts and the Commissioners of Public Works for donating items for the Kids Café Wish List.

We especially want to thank the employees of Global Manufacturing for contributing brand new pots, bakeware, kitchen supplies, utensils, a cooler, and paper products to the Kids Café program. Diana Potts' creative incentive program for her employees has greatly benefited needy children in the Lowcountry. Thank you to all who participated.

If you would like to donate something to the Kids Café program, please contact Naadia Bakhit, at 843-747-8146, ext. 109 or email nbakhit@lcfbank.org.

- Arts & Crafts Materials
- Bakeware
- Calculators
- Chairs
- Children's Books
- Computers
- Cooking Utensils
- Educational Videotapes
- Electrical Stoves
- Foil & Plastic Wrap
- Freezer
- Games and Playground Equipment
- Knives
- Paper Products
- Picnic Tables
- Plastic Utensils
- Pots & Pans
- School Supplies