



Feeding the Programs that Feed the People

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Thank You, Thank You, Thank You!

Happy New Year! 2008 has come to a close and it proved to be a challenging year for us all. We want to take this opportunity to say thank you again to all of our donors, volunteers, partner agencies and other supporters for your support and assistance in 2008!

It is because of your support that we are distributing over 10,000 pounds of food every day to our partner agencies. With that food we are helping to feed over 30,000 people every month throughout the Big Bend. In calendar year 2008, we increased the amount of food and grocery items distributed by **46%** over the amount distributed in 2007.

We are working harder to meet the demand that has skyrocketed this year, especially in the rural counties. In Liberty County, we distributed 200% more food than in 2007. Calhoun County saw an increase of 136% whereas Gulf County had an increase of 84%. And in Leon County, we saw an increase of 87% in the amount of food distributed.

Now, more than ever before, we are seeing many of our neighbors go hungry and asking for help. What is

an especially ominous sign is that here at the food bank we are receiving calls from former donors – people who have given us food or funds to help others in the past – but are now in need of help themselves.

Without your support, we would not be able to help our neighbors with their basic need for food, so again we thank you. Together we will continue to fight hunger and feed hope.

Volunteers Needed for Hunger Study

This Spring, America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend will be participating for the first time in the national Hunger Study.

The Hunger Study includes surveys of partner agencies and clients in need, to help understand and put a face to the growing need of hunger. This information will be sent to Feeding America (formerly America's Second Harvest), to be compiled on a local, statewide and national level.

If you are interested in volunteering in this important project, please email jroberts@fightinghunger.org to be added to our Hunger Study volunteer group. Volunteers will be trained in February and conduct interviews throughout the Big Bend in the following months.



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Note From Cheryl

I love Tallahassee and the Florida Panhandle. I love the trees, the Wacissa River and our beaches. But mostly I love the people here, as I am continually amazed and overwhelmed by the spirit of caring and generosity shown.

As many of you know, in August and September we were low on food in our warehouse. The food that came in to the food bank then went out quickly to our partner agencies, because of the increased need. But our community came forward, wanting to help their neighbors, and held a record number of food and fund drives this fall (listed on the supplemental insert page). Even with people's budgets being stretched tighter, people continued to give and we received 26% more food this fall than last.

For those donors I spoke with, what I heard over and over was "we know it's hard for people", and "we wanted to do what we could to help". Several families, offices and businesses gave to us and other charities this year in lieu of exchanging gifts. This generosity and selflessness is what makes our community so special, as people band together to help each other – in body and in spirit.

Save the Date!

Skip Lunch - Fight Hunger!

Tuesday, April 7, 2009

Skip Lunch – Fight Hunger is a one-day event that asks individuals to donate the equivalent of a day's lunch money to America's Second Harvest. Businesses, organizations and teams can sign up, and the top five contributors can have their logo placed on our delivery truck for a year!

For more information, call us at (850)562-3033.

I want to thank every person who gave food, funds, or their time to help us this past year. It has helped us more than you can ever know. And I would like to encourage you to continue to help as we know the need is only going to grow. This edition of the newsletter is filled with many ways you can give, volunteer, or support your local food bank. You will continue to see us expand these opportunities for the community to be involved, as I believe it will take all of us working together to truly make a difference. I look forward to being a part of it with you.

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

~Margaret Mead

Local Hunger Fact:

America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend distributed over 830,000 pounds more food in 2008 than was distributed during 2007!

Wal-Mart Awards Grant to ASHBB for New Truck



The Wal-Mart Foundation State Giving Program has awarded America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend a grant to purchase a "new" truck to use in our food pick-up and delivery program.



As many know, our fleet has given us some serious "challenges" in 2008, and this vehicle will allow us to have much-needed reliable transportation. Thanks to Wal-Mart for their on-going support in our fight against hunger!

Editor: Jennifer C. Roberts,
jroberts@fightinghunger.org

Going Green in 2009

Special Feature Written By: Stephanie Kilham

Over the past year we have made significant efforts to reduce costs as well as to be more environmentally conscientious.

- Our delivery schedule has been revised to save time and gas in making deliveries in the 10 county area.
- Our staff members are recycling more paper, cans, bottles and even Styrofoam cups than ever before.

Our volunteers are often spotted carrying home empty plastic and paper bags in which food donations were made so that they can be recycled.

One more way we can reduce our costs, as well as the cost to the environment, is to distribute our newsletter in an electronic format. We are currently sending the newsletter to many readers via email. However, if just 10% of our readers who currently receive the hard copy were to receive an electronic copy instead, we would save over \$150 each year. If 25% of you opted for an e-copy, we could save close to \$400 each year.

Additionally, if 10% of our readers opted for an e-copy, that would result in 4 pounds of paper saved, 66 gallons of wastewater prevented from discharging into lakes and streams, and 1,055 pounds of greenhouse gases avoided. This amount of greenhouse gas is the equivalent of 137 square feet of forest preserved from deforestation! If 25% of our readers opted for an e-copy, the savings to the environment would be even greater!

YOU CAN HELP – In the future, if you would like to receive an electronic copy of our newsletter and other mailings, please send your name and email address to Stephanie Kilham at skilham@fightinghunger.org.

Thank you for supporting us in our effort to reduce costs and our impact on the environment!

Individual Volunteers:

*Christopher Gray*Haven Mills*Anthony Brooks*Meka Woodard*Crystal Cooney*Keith Foran*Patricia Glenn*Gabbi Oates*Linda Sanders*Wally Frohock*Michelle Flores*Catherine Wind*Jonathan Darbouze*Terrance Roberts*Kennard Speed*Lambert Parker II*Luke Jean-Louis*Chris Bernard*Kelly Reed*Louis Lopez*Marlene Hanna*Daniel Parvin*Aimee Howard*Katerina Kurtera*Ashley Gault*Alyssa Ledenham*Chelsea Organ*Drew Levine*Mark Tracy*Jordan Wenck*Ashley Hadadorn*Doyinsola Aribu*Daniel Mireno-King*Garry Sjodin*Sarah Rebhon*Sydney Boyd*Harris Kneeland*Rhapsody Bogart*Farsin Fay*Elizabeth Ball*Courtney Roberson* Marcus Hanna*Chace Jackson*Caitland Smitherman*Lindsey Smitherman*Rebecca Oakley*Rox-anne Hughes*Rashirda Hughes*Ashley Macko*Katie Hezekiah*Stephanie Bergonia*Raquel McKnight*Tara Matthews Fuller*Audreen Robinson*Ashlee Cherry*Nancy Metayek*LaHua Mahoney*Ashley Phillips*Gayle Rivers*Patricia Ferre*Nathan Duddles*Daniel Davis*Alex Cherry*Asa Brown*Robert Mongole*Jeremy Fowler*Andy Ekers*Dacey Grice*Kiara Randolph*Najla Austin*Lyria McFadden*Tyrana Commer*Kathy Gilbert*Adam Satchell*Robin Satchell*Chris Rivers*Darlene Wilke*Libby Penrod*Joani Robson*Tracy Allen*Eileen Price*Colette Vallee*Wendy Zebrowski*Falase Denegall*Olayinka Denegall*John Hutchison*Stephanie Garber*Danage Yance*Scott Sineath*Laura Sineath*Fernanda Gusmao*Maria Padron*Barbara Iglesias*Sable Baker*David Norton*Brian Herring*Mark Lipman*Jason Coggins*Chris Kelly*Tori Love*Melissa Bradley*Janice Williamson*Lillian Carlton*Earl Pritchard*Paul Silcox*Josh Ellis*Stu Pollins*J.P. Pollins*Lucy Prosper*Kim Mills*Deborah Currie*Marnie Parry*Cheri Greene*Helena Sims*Odessa Johnson*Lee LaFuente*Kiera Salmon*Judson Hand*Ashton Hendricks*Heather Claypoole*Heather Neff*Kayla Jiny*Ashley Harrison*Nicole Vanessa Tonacco*Luke Hand*Christen Bloyd*Andrew Greenwood*Jonh Nevaquaya*Jennifer Martin-Dunfee*Greg Buchannan*Susan Schuerer*Larry Schuerer*Tabitha Fields*Kim Bramblett*Dakota Coroluzzi*Jackson Baber*Taranesia Graham*Kamari Brown*Benjamin Estrella*Max Cramer*Emma Lee*Cindy HoogerHyde*Keith HoogerHyde*Emily HoogerHyde*Casey HoogerHyde*David Rudenborg*Emilee Sims*Randy Sims*Preston Sims*Mike Sposato*Mickey Sposato*Hannah Tillman*Lisa Wallenfelsz*Josh Wallenfelsz*Adam Wallenfelsz*Caroline Walker*Scott Walker* Amanda Whitaker*Austyn Pursell* Billy Pursell*Grayson Pursell*Jadon Pursell*Lexi Pursell*Peter Pursell*Ty Pursell*John Harrelson*Chris Harrelson*Dana Harrelson*Heather Pelletier*Heather Sellars*Benita Williams*Aashari Williams*Antonio Birk*Lisa Hamby*Fredrica Boyd*Asa Molina*Laura Laskey*Carissa Dorson*Laura Irastorza*Amelia Edwards*Kellie Gerbers*Amy Derringer*Michelle Avaroma*Denise Ogdon*Megan Waldeck*Josh Humphries*Monique Labar*



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Feeding the Programs that Feed the People

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Lose Weight while helping those in need: Join in the Pound For Pound Challenge

Every year, millions of Americans resolve to lose weight. If you've made your resolution to drop some holiday pounds, then join us in the Pound For Pound challenge! General Mills, The Biggest Loser and Feeding America have joined forces to support the Pound For Pound Challenge, which will help Americans lose weight while providing hun-



ger relief. Through this national challenge, individuals can either sign up at www.pfpchallenge.com to pledge weight loss goals, or clip and mail Pound For Pound seals from specially marked General Mills products. For every pound lost and every seal received, General Mills will donate 10 cents to Feeding America, who will distribute the funds to local food banks based on the ZIP codes of consumers who participate in the program. Sign up today!