

# Fighting Hunger. Feeding Hope.



**INSIDE  
THIS  
ISSUE:**

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 3

SUMMER 2009

## Agency Relations Conference a Success!

Message From Cheryl	2
Help Fight Child Hunger	2
ASHBB Wish List	2
Feeding Florida, One Plate at a Time	2
Program Spotlight: Produce Program	3
Upcoming Events & Fundraising	4

On Friday, June 12, 2009, America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend held its Annual Agency Relations Conference at Tallahassee Community College to honor, appreciate and further educate our more than 110 partner agencies located throughout the Big Bend region of Florida.

The yearly conference served as a platform for local agencies that operate soup kitchens, food pantries and other programs to raise awareness about hunger in our local communities. The conference gave these organizations the opportunity to gather resources, support one another, and focus attention on one of the most solvable problems facing every community in America - hunger.

State Senator Al Lawson provided guests with a special morning welcome and stories of inspiration to kick off the conference. He also presented awards

to outstanding volunteers who were nominated by partner agencies for their work. Following are the outstanding volunteer winners:

Claude Kenneson (Good News Outreach), Jerry Lebica (St. Anne's Catholic Church), Wash Gallon, Jr. (New Bethel AME Church), Lillie Mae Gardner (New Bethel AME Church), Jon Hinkle (E.C.H.O. Outreach Ministries), Tallahassee Road Prison (volunteer group).

In addition to the Volunteer Awards, the conference attendees were able to attend workshops such as Building Your Volunteer Program, Compassion Fatigue, Fundraising and Special Events, Disaster Preparedness and Disaster Planning, The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly Food Stamps), the Summer Food Service Program and Best Practices.

(Continued on pg. 3, AR Conference)



State Senator Al Lawson shares an inspirational story during the conference kick-off (right). Conference attendees applaud as Good News Outreach volunteer Claude Kenneson stands to receive an award (above).



**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:**  
• Cheryl Phoenix, MSW

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

- Peggy Claborn, President
- Miaisha Mitchell, Vice President
- Tolga Dincman, Secretary
- Sam Frazier, Treasurer
- Bob Connors
- Cindi Marsiglio
- Dana N. Brooks
- John K. Londot
- Michele Atkisson

## Message From Cheryl

Our 2009 Agency Relations Conference was a snapshot of the importance of the work we collectively do everyday. Senator Al Lawson opened the conference by expressing his personal gratitude for the ways in which we help people, and shared a story from his childhood of how he and his family had been helped and the impact it made on his life.

We sometimes forget how much of a difference we make in the lives of others, so Senator Lawson's story was a reminder of how the simplest gesture can make a lasting change in one's life. Last fiscal year we increased the amount of food we distributed by 66% from the previous year, and our partner agencies now serve an average of 33,000 people each month. While the numbers are helpful in gauging our progress, they do not speak to the ways we touch people's lives.

As the conference continued, our partner agencies were able to share their own stories of clients who have been helped... and how that affected the staff and volunteers in return. By the end of the day, we were jokingly calling it our "group therapy session," but the truth remains that we need each other to carry on this important work. Not only do we touch lives through simple acts of kindness and the provision of food.... our lives are touched in return.

Each of you is part of this work. We appreciate the contribution made by all, whether it is donating your time or money, organizing a food drive or other special event, or simply being interested in the work that we do. Together we are fighting hunger, but more importantly, we are feeding hope.



### Help Fight Child Hunger!

Every five years, Congress works to improve and reauthorize important, government-funded Child Nutrition Programs. The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act of 2004 is set to expire on September 30, 2009. Congress will soon begin its debates on funding levels and allocations for these important programs. It's a critical time to share your voice with your elected officials! Just visit [hungeractioncenter.org](http://hungeractioncenter.org) to take action by sending a letter to your legislator about the importance of fighting child hunger.

**Editor: Jennifer C. Roberts,**  
[jroberts@fightinghunger.org](mailto:jroberts@fightinghunger.org)

If you would prefer to receive this publication in an electronic format, please e-mail Stephanie Kilham at [skilham@fightinghunger.org](mailto:skilham@fightinghunger.org)

### ASHBB WISH LIST:

- Freezers for use by our Partner Agencies
- Donation of Mechanic Services, such as
  - Oil changes
  - Basic maintenance & repairs
  - A/C repairs
  - Body Work Specialist
- Heavy duty, mobile carts with wheels

**For more information contact Kerrick Crumitie, Warehouse Manager, at 850-562-3033 or email [kcrumitie@fightinghunger.org](mailto:kcrumitie@fightinghunger.org).**


### FEEDING FLORIDA ONE PLATE AT A TIME

Proudly display your support for helping to fight hunger and feed hope. \$25 from every *Imagine... There's No Hunger* specialty license plate sold will be donated to the Florida Association of Food Banks for programs, such as America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend, whose mission is directed at fighting hunger in Florida. Since sales of the *Imagine... There's No Hunger* specialty license plates began in April 2005, more than \$1 million dollars has been raised to aid in the fight against hunger in Florida!



*Imagine... There's No Hunger* specialty license plates can be purchased at any authorized motor vehicle office. For more information, email [info@imagineplate.com](mailto:info@imagineplate.com).

## Program Spotlight: Produce Program



Many people who access food from our local food pantries are working families, households with children and fixed-income seniors. They are struggling in their efforts to obtain adequate food and maintain a balanced, nutritionally-sound diet. Often they must choose between food or paying for other necessities like prescriptions, health care, utilities and housing. Fresh produce is vital to the normal growth of children and the overall health of all, especially seniors.

Yet as those in need continue to struggle to make ends meet, produce is often times seen as a luxury instead of a necessity, and health suffers.

Our Produce Program is designed to distribute as much fresh produce as possible to those in need. To accomplish this, the Produce Program combines having produce available in the ASHBB warehouse facilities for our partner agencies to obtain, while also delivering truckloads of produce to local food pantries for immediate distribution. Using this two-prong approach, ASHBB is able to distribute a large amount of produce while it is still fresh, and to target rural areas throughout the Big Bend that might otherwise not be able to obtain fresh produce. In 2008, ASHBB distributed more than 260,000 pounds of produce directly to pantries in Calhoun, Franklin, Gadsden, Gulf, Jackson, Jefferson, Leon, Liberty, Taylor and Wakulla Counties.

In 2009, ASHBB has worked hard to continually increase the amount of fresh produce available to our partner agencies and those in need in our local communities. By increasing the amount of fresh produce available through the Produce Program, the children, families and seniors that we serve will have the opportunity to eat nutritious foods and not rely solely on canned and processed food for their nutrients.

For more information on the Produce Program or to find out how you can donate, please contact ASHBB at 850-562-3033.

(AR Conference, continued from pg. 1)

Lavander Barkley, New Israel Church of Jesus Christ, attended the conference and said, "The workshops were informative. I was able to learn new ideas from other agencies that we will be implementing at our agency. We are really looking forward to attending the conference again next year!"

Kim Ladner, E.C.H.O. Outreach Ministries, added, "The workshops provided an excellent opportunity to learn about fundraising and other topics. I also enjoyed networking with people from other partner agencies that I hadn't previously met."

With the ever growing need in our local communities, supporting and preparing our local agencies in the fight against hunger is imperative. Last year, Second Harvest increased the amount of food distributed to its partner agencies by 46% due to the increased need. According to Tina Reason, Agency Relations Director for America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend, "This year's conference was even more vital than previously. Our partner agencies have to serve more people with fewer funds. The constant strain personally on the volunteers as well as financially is overwhelming. Our intention is to provide a holistic supportive network that will assist our partner agencies to continue their work in a positive, effective manner."

Barbara Henry, Food Outreach Ministries, summed up the conference best, "Senator Lawson's introduction was very upbeat and positive. The workshops were very well organized and the presenters were great! It was a day well spent!"

The conference would not have been such a success without the support of the conference sponsors – Good News Outreach, Mielka Realty, and the MLK Foundation of Florida. For more information about the conference, becoming a partner agency, or how you can help in the fight against hunger, call America's Second Harvest at 850-562-3033.



4016 NW Passage  
Tallahassee, FL 32303

**NONPROFIT ORG  
US POSTAGE PAID  
TALLAHASSEE, FL  
PERMIT NO. 452**

SUPPORTER ADDRESS

**Fighting Hunger. Feeding Hope.**  
America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend  
is an Equal Opportunity Employer and Provider.



### Support ASHBB On-line with GoodSearch

What if ASHBB earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support the fight against hunger? Well, now it can! GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up! Also try GoodShop.com, the new online shopping mall, which donates up to 37 percent of each purchase to ASHBB! Hundreds of great stores including Target, Gap, Best Buy, ebay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you can support ASHBB. Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and enter America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend as the charity you want to support. And, be sure to spread the word!



**HUNGER ACTION MONTH**  
GIVE A LITTLE FEED A LOT

Hunger Action Month is coming and it's your opportunity to help ASHBB and Feeding America feed more Americans than ever before.

Throughout September, ASHBB will be asking you to take a moment to **Give a Little, Feed a Lot**. Join millions of Americans in giving a little of yourself ... money, time, voice ... whatever you can ....to feed the hungry in our community and across the country. Visit [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org) and learn more about upcoming **Give a Little, Feed a Lot** activities and how you can join in. Mark your calendars to give a little this September.

We'll make sure it feeds a lot.

### ASHBB NEEDS SEASONAL VOLUNTEER DRIVERS!



ASHBB is in need of seasonal volunteer drivers to assist with delivering and picking up food collection barrels for holiday food drives, as well as help with picking up other donations during our busiest time of the year! Ideal volunteers are those that are dependable and personable, with flexible availability. Applicants must possess reliable transportation, valid vehicle insurance and a clean driving record.

For more information or to apply for a Seasonal Volunteer Driver Position, contact Jennifer C. Roberts, Director of Community Outreach, at 850-562-3033 or email [jroberts@fightinghunger.org](mailto:jroberts@fightinghunger.org).