

Fighting Hunger. Feeding Hope.



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As you know, our organization has experienced an explosive growth in the demand for food and services because of the economic struggles we are all facing. We are now distributing more than 3,000,000 pounds of food to those in need every year, up 50% from the previous year. Sadly, however, there have been times when we've had to turn away food because we lacked adequate space.

We now have a wonderful opportunity to expand our programs and services by relocating to a larger warehouse. With a larger space, we will not only increase the amount of food we distribute now, but also meet our long-range goals to further broaden our food distribution and feed more individuals and families who turn to us in their time of need.

To accomplish this goal, we have initiated a Capital Campaign to enable us to purchase a 31,000 square foot warehouse that we will also renovate. Our goal is to raise \$750,000 and to date, we have already raised one-third of that!

With this goal, we can make the down payment and complete the necessary renovations, including the installation of the new cooler and freezer space, without increasing our current monthly financial obligations.

What does this mean for our operations? We will double the size of our facility, thus greatly increasing the amount of food we distribute to our hungry neighbors. With a larger freezer and cooler space, we can deliver more fresh fruit, vegetables, milk and meat to those most in need in our service area. We are excited about this opportunity and invite you to be a part of the Capital Campaign. Your support of this campaign will not only help feed more people now, it will help feed individuals and families for years to come.



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Cheryl Phoenix, MSW

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Message From Cheryl

The holiday season is upon us, and I am thankful that we have been able to work with so many wonderful individuals, groups and businesses this year to meet the increasing need for food in the Big Bend. The community has once again shown its commitment to helping others by the record number of food drives held this fall for us (see insert page). We are encouraged that several organizations are now able to collect food year-round, such as Goodwill, because we know the need does not stop at Christmas. For example....

We received an email from "Rachel," a state employee and mother of three who contacted us for food assistance. Rachel works full time, but makes less than \$25,000 and is raising three children between the ages of 2 and 11. She told us "I make too much to receive food stamps, but not enough to get by some months. Often I have to decide to either get gas to go to work or food to feed my kids. I try to split it up between both, but it's not enough. I myself haven't eaten in 3 days so that my kids have something to eat. I can go without; they can't...I just want to get something so we can get by for the next few days... "

It is because of people like "Rachel," and more than 30,000 others that our partner agencies feed each month, that we work so hard at the holidays and year-round. This is the reason we must continue our efforts and raise the money needed for a larger warehouse, so that we don't ever turn away food again that could help feed our hungry neighbors. We invite you to continue to be a part of this work, and thank you for all you have done to help us fight hunger and feed hope in the Big Bend.

4th Annual Empty Bowl Banquet

On Friday, October 9, 2009 America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend held our 4th Annual Empty Bowl Banquet. This year's event took place at the Challenger Learning Center in downtown Tallahassee. Open to the public, this annual banquet was a wonderful opportunity to recognize and appreciate our dedicated volunteers, generous donors and hardworking partner agencies. This event also provided America's Second Harvest the opportunity to increase awareness about the issue of hunger and poverty in our local communities. In addition, the event was headed by the 2009 Mistress of Ceremony Shonda Knight and included an awards presentation, dramatic empty bowl display by local school children and refreshments were provided by Harry's Seafood Bar and Grille, Gordo's, and Tri-Eagle Sales.

On behalf of the entire ASHBB staff, thank you to our partner agencies, award recipients, volunteers and all of the guests who attended for making the 4th Annual Empty Bowl Banquet a huge success!

Thank You to our Empty Bowl Banquet Sponsors!

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Boyd Family Annual Charity Dinner

On October 25, 2009, U.S. Congressman Allen Boyd, Cissy Boyd and other family members hosted their Annual Family Charity Dinner, with proceeds going to America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend.

Cheryl Phoenix, ASHBB Executive Director, remarked to the crowd that "we are so thankful and honored to have been chosen as the recipients of this year's benefit" and went on to explain that the funds will go towards ASHBB's first ever Capital Campaign.

Thank you to the Boyd Family and all the wonderful sponsors of this event who donated more than \$100,000 to Second Harvest!

For a complete list of event sponsors, please visit www.fightinghunger.org.



U.S. Congressman Allen Boyd presents Executive Director Cheryl Phoenix with event donation.



3rd Annual Capital City Countdown

This year, bring in the New Year at Tallahassee's biggest celebration...

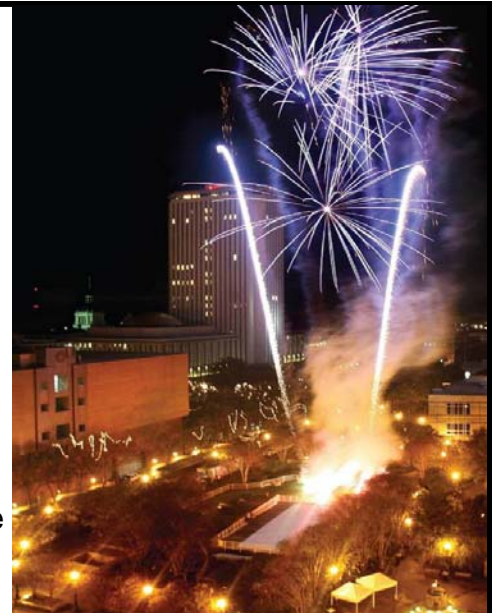
The 3rd Annual Capital City Countdown!

Join thousands at this year's event where you'll enjoy Live Music, Drinks, Food Vendors, Fireworks and Fun all happening in Downtown Tallahassee at Kleman Plaza!

The Price.. It's FREE!!!!!!!

Plus, there are a limited number of tickets available for a VIP Party including a Dinner Buffet, Open Bar, and Music & Dancing in the Challenger Learning Center. Tickets are \$75 each or a reserved table for 8 is \$600.

Don't Miss the excitement of the New Year's Eve Celebration in Kleman Plaza, for more information call Michelle Hayse at (850) 562-3033 or mhayse@fightinghunger.org



Thanks to our Countdown Sponsors!!!





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Spotlight: Upcoming Events

- **5th Annual Ice Bowl**
(Saturday, January 30)
Disc golf tournament hosted by the Seven Hills Hurlers Disc Golf Club to raise funds and food for ASHBB. The Ice Bowl is open to all players, regardless of experience level. For more info visit www.branwen.com/discgolf

- **Scouting For Food**
(Saturday, February 7)
Boy Scout troops will be distributing plastic grocery bags in local area neighborhoods to collect canned good donations.

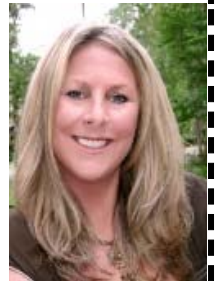
Saturday Volunteer Blitz:

Held the third Saturday of each month (9am-12pm), this is a favorite service project for both volunteer groups and individual volunteers who are unable to schedule projects during the work week.

- **January 16, 2010**
- **February 20, 2010**
- **March 20, 2010**

Volunteers must schedule their visit in-advance. Space is limited and is filled on a first come-first reserve basis. In addition, all volunteers under the age of 16 years old must be accompanied by a parent or guardian .

Welcome Michelle Hayse, Development Director!



We are pleased to have Michelle Hayse join our team at America's Second Harvest of the Big Bend as our new Development Director.

Michelle comes to us with extensive experience in fundraising at local non-profit organizations, and is passionate about making a difference in our community. "I'm honored to be part of such a wonderful organization and feel very excited and happy about our Capital Campaign," said Ms. Hayse.

Thank you to the Charles A. Frueauff Foundation for funding this position for the Capital Campaign.