

Fresh eggs



GRADE 'A' NEWS FROM THE
LOWCOUNTRY FOOD BANK

letter from the executive director

Dear Friends,

When I was a kid, I used to love it when the weather turned warmer because it meant that school would be out soon. Most of us remember those summer days as relaxing, fun and carefree.

Unfortunately, many of the children our agencies serve do not feel that way. Believe it or not, they dread the summer. They dread it because they will spend the summer hungry. Without school lunches they have little to eat in their "food insecure" homes. In some schools in our ten-county area as many as 95% of the children receive free or reduced lunches because their families live near or below national poverty levels. Summer is the time of our biggest need for both food and money because more children are hungry when they are out of school. Most of us think of helping the hungry at Thanksgiving or other major holidays. Summer is the time when many children have the greatest need.

I was recently talking to one of our Kid's Café directors. Kid's Café is an after school hot meal program for needy children. The director told me that on Mondays the kids were licking their plates. When I commented that this was a nice "figure of speech," the director said, "No, the kids are literally licking their plates on Monday because they have not been in school for two days and have not had anything to eat on the weekend."

This summer, remember the children. Well-fed kids are healthier, learn more, and are better all-around citizens. Thanks for helping us feed them.

Archie McRee
Executive Director

“ Summer is the time of our biggest need because more children are hungry when they are out of school. Most of us think of helping the hungry at Thanksgiving or other major holidays. When school is out for the summer, there's no vacation from hunger. ”

— Archie D. McRee

Executive Director of the Lowcountry Food Bank

Our Vision—A Hunger Free Zone

Our mission is to feed the hungry in coastal South Carolina. Our vision is to create a ten-county Hunger Free Zone.

A Hunger Free Zone is a geographic area in which no person is more than five miles from emergency food services, and no agency is further than one hour from a food bank distribution center.

As you look at the map on this page, you can see that our organization has expanded its operations centered on three strategic locations—a main distribution center in Charleston and two branches. In 2000, we opened the Beaufort County Branch in Yemassee to better serve our membership in Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties. In 2002, we opened the Grand Strand Branch in Myrtle Beach to provide better access for our member agencies in Georgetown and Horry Counties.

We continue to increase our overall food supply and to tailor our programs to the needs of the community in the fight against hunger. Our Hunger Free Zone over the next two years is the driving force of our anti-hunger advocacy efforts—creating and actively maintaining the bridge between local food pantries, faith-based organizations, schools and other organizations closest to those being served.

Your support and guidance helps the Lowcountry Food Bank expand its cost-

effective model of operation to insure that hungry people are always close to a reliable source of nutritious food. For more information about hunger and homelessness services in your community visit our on-line database at www.lowcountryfoodbank.org or call us at (843) 747-8146.



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104 Liz Holt, *Bookkeeper*
105 Judi Hamilton, *Office Manager*
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Pet Helpers of Charleston

Did you know that the Lowcountry Food Bank gets donated pet food? Last year, we distributed over 40,000 pounds of pet food. That's right, not only do we feed people but we feed pets, too. Studies have shown that most people that are in need and receive food from a food pantry have pets that are also in need. How do we do it? Through a wonderful, highly-energetic woman who is this edition's Agency Spotlight—Carol Lynville. Carol is the Founder and President of Pet Helpers—an organization dedicated to protect, shelter,



Left to right: Carol Lynville of Pet Helpers, Diane Straney of Keepers of the Wild and Ann Townsend of Dog Patch load their vehicle with a recent donation of pet food and supplies.

and work toward ensuring the welfare of all animals. Carol has pioneered the way in the distribution of pet food and other animal supplies throughout the Charleston area. "The Lowcountry Food Bank has been a life saver for Pet Helpers and other animal shelters around the Lowcountry, and I sincerely thank the community for supporting the Lowcountry

Food Bank," said Carol. Not only has Carol rescued and supplied food for thousands of animals in Charleston County, she has developed a partnership with other organizations such as Keepers of the Wild in St. George and Dog Patch on Wadmalaw Island. Carol is an excellent role model for serving our community and helping the Lowcountry Food Bank get food where it's also needed—to our pets!

Warehouse & distribution

Community Food Drives – Helpful Tips

The most successful food drives are well publicized before and during the event. In addition, place containers in central areas that are easily accessible. We have barrels that you can use. Groups are encouraged to deliver boxes or barrels to the Lowcountry Food Bank after the food drive. If you need food picked up or need barrels, please contact us at (843) 747-8146, ext. 109.

Most needed items include: Canned Meat Products (e.g. beef stew, chili, soup, chicken, and tuna); Canned Fruits & Vegetables; Rice, Sugar, Peanut Butter & Dried Beans; and Dairy Products (e.g. shelf stable, evaporated or powdered milk).

2002's Top 10 Community Food Drives

1.	US POSTAL SERVICE	67,695 LB.
2.	PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS	10,818 LB.
3.	COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON	7,211 LB.
4.	OAKBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL	4,595 LB.
5.	JAMES ISLAND COUNTY PARK	4,224 LB.
6.	GREGG MIDDLE SCHOOL	2,011 LB.
7.	GIRL SCOUTS OF THE LOWCOUNTRY	1,798 LB.
8.	WESTVACO	1,424 LB.
9.	NORTH CHARLESTON ROTARY CLUB	879 LB.
10.	SEDFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL	847 LB.
TOTAL AMOUNT DONATED		101,502 LB.

Grant from Blank Family Foundation Expands Hunger Free Zone Initiative

A free meal service program for children is headed to northern Beaufort and Southern Charleston Counties thanks to a grant from the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation. Three new Kids Cafés will be up and running by August in the rural communities between Yemassee and Beaufort, and on Edisto Island. Currently, there are fourteen Kids Café programs in seven of the counties in the Lowcountry area. The goal is to have programs in all of the ten counties in the Lowcountry Food Bank's service area, helping to expand the Hunger Free Zone Initiative.

"It's great," Chris Enlow, Director of Communications, said. "The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation is a new partnership. They're directly helping us to open up these Kids Cafés."

The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation supports programs and organizations that create opportunity, enhance self-esteem and increase awareness about cultural and community issues among



Kids Café not only provides a hot, nutritious meal to needy children; it also has an academic component, as participants receive academic tutoring and nutrition education.

young people.

"The focus of the program is a hot meal," Enlow said. "And we're trying to target school districts where there's a great need," specifically where 80 percent or more of the student body are enrolled in the free/reduced school lunch program.

The program serves the basic goal of feeding hungry children, which can lead to better grades in school and overall better health in children. According to a study from The Center on Hunger

and Poverty at Brandeis University in Massachusetts, there is a connection between hunger and academic performance in children. The study cited research showing that children dealing with hunger have overall poorer health, which directly affects school attendance and makes learning a challenge.

For more information on the Kids Café program, contact Fouchina Kirkendoll at the Lowcountry Food Bank at 843-747-8146, ext. 109 or fkirkendoll@lcfbank.org.

Beaufort Fund Supports Branch in Yemassee

"The Lowcountry Food Bank makes a buck go farther than anyone we know, to provide important help for the greatest number of people," comments Richard Hendry, Vice President of Programs for The Community Foundation Serving Coastal South Carolina.

In January, The Beaufort Fund of TCF awarded the

Lowcountry Food Bank a \$10,000 grant to feed the hungry in Beaufort, Colleton, Hampton and Jasper Counties. "This organization could have sat on its laurels a few years ago and boasted that its North Charleston warehouse was available to help feeding programs throughout the coastal area. But they went a step further

in working to help non-profits by setting up satellite branches," remarks Hendry.

Since 2000, this fund has continually helped to support the Lowcountry Food Bank's efforts in the fight against hunger to a network of 81 member agencies in these four counties.

**kids
café
program**

New Partner— Communities in Schools of Berkeley County

In February, under-privileged students from Cainhoy Middle School participated in an innovative, after-school program. Communities in Schools of Berkeley County has partnered with the Lowcountry Food Bank to provide participating children with four new Kids Cafés at Cainhoy Middle School, St. Stephens Middle School, Cross High School, and Berkeley Middle School. Kids Café is a nationally acclaimed after-school tutoring and feeding program for children at risk of going hungry, established by America's Second Harvest, the national network of food banks.

According to Brenda Barrington, Executive Director of CIS of Berkeley County, "we work to provide the students we serve with skills that will position them to succeed economically and professionally in their future. One of the challenges we have identified in Berkeley County is the simple fact that children do not go home to a warm evening meal. However, since they do not leave our program until approximately 6:00 pm, this is a great opportunity for us to provide them an evening meal."

Working through its grassroots network of local agencies like Communities in Schools of Berkeley County, this local outreach has grown into fourteen Kids Cafés in Beaufort, Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, Dorchester, Jasper, Hampton and Williamsburg Counties, serving over 600 needy children.



LOWCOUNTRY FOOD BANK

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we feed the hungry...

In 2002, we collected and distributed almost 10 million pounds of food products to nearly 400 agencies serving the poor and hungry in coastal South Carolina. This donated food has a certified market value of \$16,680,000.

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 dollar donated.

thank you for your support!



1st ANNUAL AGENCY RELATIONS CONFERENCE

PREPARING THE FIELD FOR HARVEST
EDUCATING and NETWORKING
for a HUNGER FREE South Carolina

October 29-31, 2003
Springmaid Beach Resort
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Bringing Together Our Grassroots Network
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Contact Ron Pringle, Agency Relations Director,
to learn how YOU can become a part of this conference
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