



**LOAVES & FISHES**

Groceries for Neighbors in Need

# IMPACT REPORT



Loaves & Fishes provides a week's worth of nutritionally balanced groceries to individuals and families experiencing a short-term crisis through a network of emergency food pantries located throughout Mecklenburg County.

[www.loavesandfishes.org](http://www.loavesandfishes.org)

# Compassion For Our Neighbors



Impact happens at the intersection of opportunity and compassion. Compassion founded our organization 45 years ago, and it remains the driving force behind our operations today. As food insecurity challenges continue to grow in our community and access to fresh, healthy foods in vulnerable zip codes remains low, we are committed to doing more.

As you read through this past year's Impact Report and see the progress we made and the kindness we bestowed to our neighbors in need, please know that you were the "fuel" for fulfilling this mission. Addressing a systemic problem as large as hunger is no easy feat and it takes all of us working together for true collective impact. **Thank you for being a vehicle for change and joining us on this path to food for all!**

Tina Postel, Executive Director

## Compassion in the Pantries

Helena and Keisha, both college graduates, found themselves in tight times with food at the bottom of their priority lists following rent, electricity, and water bills. Loaves & Fishes provided both sisters with a week's worth of groceries.

Helena (right) and her sister Keisha (left) arrived as soon as the pantry opened, first thing in the morning. Their smiles were more than enough to show their excitement and appreciation. *"I lost my job, and from that, it was like a trickling effect,"* Helena shared. *"I had savings, but I [had to make] sure my rent was paid for my kids."*

She talked about the compassionate volunteers who catered to her four-year-old daughter's needs by providing more produce and vegetables when Helena told them her daughter doesn't eat meat. *"My son was taking out the heads of cabbage, the apples, the oranges, the watermelon. My kids love fruits and vegetables, so he asked, 'All of this for us?' and I said, 'Yes.' It was just a blessing, a real blessing. And a well-balanced diet."*

After her first experience, Helena encouraged Keisha to go to a Loaves & Fishes pantry to receive desperately needed resources for her family. Keisha, mother to a month-old newborn, talked about going through ups and downs in life, needing to maintain a balanced diet, and not working while nursing her baby boy. *"It's tough, you know... It's tough. Anybody who has the privilege to come and just get extra help, all pride aside, I appreciate it."*

*"I think I've hugged everybody here. I feel like I'm just where I need to be. This is a big help - just heaven-sent,"* Keisha says.



## About Our Clients






**\$1,220** - Average Monthly Household Income of Loaves & Fishes' Clients

**3.3** - Average Family Size



## Program Highlights

2019 was a big year for Loaves & Fishes, we are proud to share a few exciting updates:

-  Opened the **first Loaves & Fishes pantry in Matthews** at the Sucot Foundation, NC in November, just in time for the Thanksgiving season. This pantry fills a critical gap in this area of Mecklenburg County.
-  Held a series of **Pop-Up Food Share** events throughout the summer and fall to distribute extra fresh fruits, produce, and food boxes.
-  Partnered with Second Harvest Food Bank to provide more fresh produce for our **Project Fresh initiative**. In the entire 18-19 fiscal year, we distributed 187,173.6lbs of fresh produce.
-  Partnered with ONE Charlotte Health Alliance (OCHA) to launch two first-of-its-kind **mobile food pharmacies** in Charlotte. These are equipped with built-in shelves, coolers, and a freezer. OCHA personnel will be on-site in food deserts to consult with clients about diet choices to help improve health conditions, such as obesity, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, and high blood sugar.
-  Kicked off a campaign to raise awareness of Summer Hunger at our **2019 Luncheon of Hope** featuring Jeannette Walls, author of *The Glass Castle*.



## Legacy Giving

*Funding the Future of Loaves & Fishes*

Jim Scarlett (right), a longtime supporter, reached out to let us know that he included Loaves & Fishes in his estate planning. He shared this thought with us, *"Think of legacy giving to Loaves & Fishes like a 'second serving' to others from the generous portion you were given."*

To learn how you can leave a legacy visit [www.loavesandfishes.org/legacy](http://www.loavesandfishes.org/legacy)



## Because of Your Support

**76,600** Hours Volunteers Provided **4,664** Volunteers **13** Full-time Staff **19** Full Pantries **18** Mini Pantries

# 2019 Client Survey Stats

**49%** will use the money they saved to pay rent or mortgage



**21%** will use the money they saved to pay electric and/or gas bills

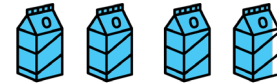


**11%** will use the money they saved to pay for medicine



## Food Insecurity Our Clients Face

**95%** worried whether their food would run out before they had money to buy more



**90%** have run out of food



# 2018-2019 Budget

## How Support Was Used

Program	\$5,709,000
Administration	\$314,000
Fundraising	\$347,000

## Sources of Support

In-Kind	\$2,412,000
Financial Donations	\$2,392,000
Volunteer Time	\$1,853,000
Other	\$11,000

## Breakdown of Support

### Financial Donations

Individuals - 51.0%  
 Foundations - 22.8%  
 Congregations - 10.1%  
 Businesses - 12.4%  
 Organizations - 1.9%  
 Government - 1.8%

### In-Kind Donations

Individuals - 5.0%  
 Congregations - 5.2%  
 Business - 27.0%  
 Organizations - 29.0%  
 Government - 30.2%  
 Schools/Colleges - 3.6%

# 2019-2020 Board of Directors

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Wells Fargo, Retired

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