

**LOAVES & FISHES**

Groceries for Neighbors in Need

# THE FISHNET

*Our mission is to provide a week's worth of nutritious groceries to people within our community facing economic hardships.*

## Executive Director Beverly Howard Announces Retirement



After 27 years of fighting hunger and poverty in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Beverly Howard has announced that she will retire in the spring as Executive Director of Loaves & Fishes. Since arriving in 1988, Beverly has grown Loaves & Fishes from 6 pantries serving 20,000 people a year to a network of 20 pantries, located throughout Mecklenburg County. In 2014 those pantries provided a week's worth of groceries to 78,602 people. At the height of the recession in 2012, that number peaked to a record 126,803.

More pantries feeding more people in need is only part of the story. As soon as Beverly arrived, she improved accessibility for our clients

by creating mini pantries at Crisis Assistance Ministry, Jewish Family Services, Metrolina Aids Project, police and fire stations and the Department of Social Services in order to tide clients over until they can get to a full-sized pantry. She has made sure that children have greater nutritional options such as adding more dairy - cheese and yogurt – to the pantry bagging list. And she has always insisted that the dignity of our clients be first and foremost. By converting Loaves & Fishes' pantries to Client Choice, just as in a grocery store, clients choose the items they know their family will eat. At no time during her 27 years at the helm, has a single person been turned away due to lack of food.

**During Beverly Howard's tenure, 1,621,115 people have received a week's supply of nutritionally balanced groceries.**

Over the next few months we will begin the process of saying goodbye and wishing Beverly well in her next adventure. A transition team has been formed and will begin the formal search for a new director early next year. Meanwhile we are looking forward, well-positioned for a new chapter in the Loaves & Fishes story, stronger than ever thanks to Beverly Howard.



**Harris Teeter** Summer is a critical time for families living on a tight budget with school out for 3 months. Harris Teeter wanted to help make sure children had plenty of dairy in their diets. They donated \$13,000 to provide cheese and yogurt for over 8,000 children served by Loaves & Fishes while school was out. These funds will also fuel our refrigerated truck for one whole year. Thank you Harris Teeter!



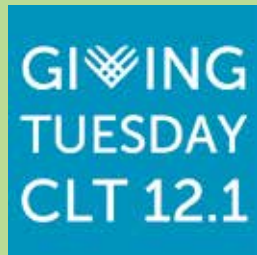
## Harvest Feast

Harris Teeter's annual Harvest Feast food drive runs throughout the month of November. You can support Loaves & Fishes by purchasing \$1, \$5, or \$20 donation cards or look for red collection barrels to donate non-perishable food items. Last year's campaign raised \$44,972 for Loaves & Fishes!



This summer, **Myers Park Presbyterian Church** set a goal of collecting \$15,000 for Loaves & Fishes through their weekly Sunday offering. Halfway through the summer they had to reset their goal after surpassing \$20,000 in donations!

Thanks to their generosity, over 51,000 meals will be provided to hungry families in our community. Thank you, Myers Park Presbyterian!



## #GivingTuesdayCLT

After battling the crowds and getting amazing deals on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, wouldn't it feel great to do something for "good"? Here's your chance.

December 1, *Giving Tuesday*,

is globally recognized as a day dedicated to giving. In Charlotte, we're celebrating #GivingTuesdayCLT with 107 other local nonprofits. Together we're working to raise \$2,000,000 for our community!

Be a part of it:

- Make a gift of funds or goods to Loaves & Fishes.
- Pledge volunteer hours with us in 2016.
- Like us on social media and share our posts (don't forget to use the hashtag #GivingTuesdayCLT).
- Check out GivingTuesdayCLT.org for more ways to get involved.

**Street Turkeys** Before you give thanks at your Thanksgiving table, share the bounty. On **Wednesday, November 25**, head down to the Sports Radio 610AM **WFNZ Dog House** where we'll be collecting turkeys and financial donations for the holidays. The Dog House is located on the corner of Mint and Morehead St. Just look for the giant turkey!



Thank you to the thousands who hit the street Sunday, October 18 for the **37th annual Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk**.

Funds raised through the CROP Walk help fight hunger and poverty across the globe and right in our own community. Because of you, Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk presented Loaves & Fishes with checks from last year's walk for \$24,149!



It was like Christmas in July!

You sent need on a vacation by donating items on our wish list from the **SHARE Charlotte GIVE SHOP**. We were one of 50 local non-profits participating in #SummerShareCLT, a two week giving campaign. **You can still give! Visit [www.sharecharlotte.com](http://www.sharecharlotte.com)**, click on *Give Shop*, and choose items such as canned fruit, tuna or chicken (even can openers!) from our wish list and it will shipped directly to us.



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# I Lost Everything...



Queen has to be careful so she asks that we use only her first name. Domestic violence forced her to take her children and get out. Quickly. "I lost everything. I had to leave my home, my job and now I am learning how to start all over from scratch."

Thanks to community support from SafeAlliance, Room in the Inn and DSS, Queen and her children are safe and starting to rebuild. She is on the road to getting settled and looking for a job. "But," she asks, "do we stay hungry until then?"

At the Loaves & Fishes pantry, Queen is upbeat. With her huge, beautiful smile and the hugs she gives to each and every volunteer, you would never

guess what she has been through.

As we load the groceries into her car, I asked Queen what this week's worth of groceries will mean for her. It was the first time she lost her smile. Her hand quickly covers her mouth and she can no longer speak. It takes a moment to realize she is trying to regain her composure. "In my current situation, you have to fight for your dignity. Thanks to Loaves & Fishes, we don't have to worry about where our next meal will come from. If I couldn't provide anything else, my kids will have something to eat."



Thank you to everyone who came out to help Loaves & Fishes celebrate our **40th Anniversary!** From **Larry Sprinkle** jumping onto tables, all the great 70's styles and dancing under a disco ball - it was a fantastic party! Many thanks to our Title Sponsor **Publix** for making it one groovy night!



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**Holiday Cards** Give the gift of hope this holiday season. Honor the special people on your list with holiday cards from Loaves & Fishes. For a minimum donation of \$10 per card, you can order cards to be delivered to you or provide us with your list of names and addresses. We will take care of the rest. Look for a flyer in the mail or order cards online by visiting [www.LoavesAndFishes.org](http://www.LoavesAndFishes.org).



“When Beverly leaves for retirement next year, she will leave Loaves & Fishes well situated to face the challenges of the future.”

Tim Klund  
President, Board of Directors

**Executive Director Beverly Howard announces retirement. See page 1**

**Fill A Bag - Feed A Family**

You can make a difference for hungry families. Simply organize a food drive in your neighborhood, work place, or congregation. We can help by providing you with collection bags or barrels.

Visit our website:  
[www.LoavesAndFishes.org](http://www.LoavesAndFishes.org)  
and click *Get Involved*.

