



LOAVES & FISHES

Groceries for Neighbors in Need

40 Years of Impact

IMPACT REPORT

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

PRIORITY NEEDS:

CANNED MEATS

CANNED PASTAS

CANNED FRUITS

DRY CEREAL

100% FRUIT JUICES

Last spring, we told you about the Oliver family. When Heather Oliver came to Loaves & Fishes, she said in a moving thank-you note, she was treated with great "dignity." Anyone could be in her family's shoes, Heather pointed out: "I'm your neighbor...the family at your church...."

Once, they were making \$58,000 a year. Heather, now 26, had gone to Queens University of Charlotte; she never expected to need help herself. Her husband, Marco, now 31, had a good job at a pharmacy chain. But they and their daughter Stella, now 4, had fallen on hard times after a variety of setbacks. Heather couldn't get a job, because they couldn't afford day care.



At Christmas 2014, Heather once again took time to write to Loaves & Fishes. She repeated her gratitude, and said her family was looking to the future with great hope: "I know we are certainly doing well in comparison to when we met with you."

As with most of the families Loaves & Fishes assists, progress is three steps forward and two steps back.

Today, the Olivers are still having financial challenges, and have had to make another trip to Loaves & Fishes. Marco must soon have his gall bladder removed and will have to miss a week of work. But they are happy, Heather reports. They hope to enroll Stella in Head Start. They have another daughter, Athena, three months old. Heather is still hoping to find a job. Someday, she'd like to go back to college.

When she came to Loaves & Fishes, Heather says, the family had literally nothing to eat. She and Marco often went to bed thinking, "We're not going to make it." She couldn't believe how much healthy food she was given at the Holy Comforter pantry.

Heather is thankful for the help her family received and for the way she was treated. She says she wants to thank "every person who does good through Loaves & Fishes," and notes:

"People 'like us' are able to feel worthy and encouraged because of what people 'like you' do."

FROM OUR 2014 CLIENT SURVEY

“Because I received groceries from Loaves & Fishes”



31.7% will use the money they saved to pay rent



20.2% will use the money they saved to pay electric and/or gas



7.7% will use the money they saved to pay for medicine



16.5% gave other reasons, including making a car payment, putting gas in their car, and covering the costs of public transportation. For some there was just enough money in the household to pay the bills, but not purchase food. As a result, the answer was frequently, “My family will eat”.

Food Insecurity

93%



In the last 12 months, did you worry about whether your food would run out before you got money to buy more?

91%



In the last 12 months, did the food you buy just not last and you didn't have money to get more?

86%



In the last 12 months did you ever eat less at a meal because there wasn't enough money to buy food?

40 YEARS 1975-2015 TIMELINE



- 1975** A small group of dedicated volunteers opens an emergency food pantry at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Charlotte. The pantry feeds 1,000 people.
- 1987** Loaves & Fishes expands to 6 pantries and feeds 20,000 people.
- 1989** Loaves & Fishes purchases its first delivery truck.
- 2008** During the recession, Loaves & Fishes' Board of Directors votes to lower the wait for clients between pantry visits from 60 to 30 days.
- 2011** Client Choice is introduced. From a nutritionally balanced shopping list, clients choose the foods they know their families will eat, lending dignity and cutting down on waste.
- 2012** At the height of the recession Loaves & Fishes feeds 126,803 people.
- 2014** Loaves & Fishes sees a return to pre-recession levels, providing a week's supply of groceries to 78,602 people. 48% are children.
- 2015** Mecklenburg Co. Council Boy Scouts of America's Scouting for Food drive collects a record-breaking 268,045 pounds of food.

Cost of Living 1975 vs. 2015

	1975	2015
New House	\$48,000	\$270,200
Average Income	\$12,686	\$51,759
Gasoline	\$.59/gallon	\$2.38/gallon
Milk	\$1.65/gallon	\$3.49/gallon
Eggs	\$0.84/dozen	\$2.08/dozen
Bread	\$0.28/pound	\$1.43/pound

Source: US Bureau of Labor Statistics



Today through a network of 20 emergency food pantries located throughout Mecklenburg County, Loaves & Fishes provides a week's supply of groceries to families and individuals experiencing a short term crisis.

WHAT WERE YOU DOING IN 1975?



Beverly Howard, Executive Director

What were you doing in 1975? Dancing under a disco ball? Parenting a Pet Rock? A handful of local folks were wondering what to do about a new phenomenon in Charlotte – hungry people. People in crisis “church-hopped” to find help. Some concerned lay people at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church came together and agreed that our community needed to organize help for people who were hungry. Their rallying cry was “We have hungry people in our community and we can do something about it!” They created Loaves & Fishes.

That was 40 years ago. Today we are a national model serving almost 80,000 people in Mecklenburg County last year. 40 years of growth – from 1,000 people helped in 1975 to a record high of 126,000 in 2012; from one pantry in 1975 to 20 pantries today. Many things have changed in the past 40 years.

The stories we hear from folks in crisis situations have changed very little. Affordable housing is still the largest problem most low income families face. In 2014 more than 31% of our clients reported they would use the money they saved by coming to Loaves & Fishes for groceries to pay the rent. Another 20% said they would use the money saved to pay electric or gas bills. Others said they would be able to pay for medicine, make a car payment, one man said he would be able to buy a pair of work boots so he could continue working.

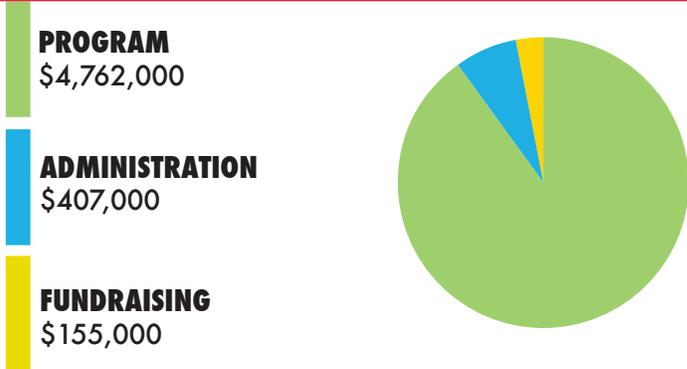
The 40 year old story of Loaves & Fishes is not told in statistics, compelling as these may be. The story is told in the words and faces of the more than 1.7 million people who Loaves & Fishes has helped over the years. I remember a young family I met the first year I worked at Loaves & Fishes in 1988. They had come to Charlotte with their newborn baby boy to find work. And while the father was able to get a job the mom quickly found out the cost of child care was more than she could earn. They managed to get by until their old clunker of a car broke down and dad lost his job because he had no transportation. Their week’s supply of food from Loaves & Fishes tided them over until they could get bus fare to return home to West Virginia where they had extended family who could help. I often think of that newborn – he must be 27 or so by now, older than his parents were when they lived in Charlotte. Hopefully that week of food from Loaves & Fishes and the return home it made possible has made a lasting difference in his life. As with all our thousands of stories over the years, we will never know the end of his story.

We are not naïve enough to think that a week’s supply of food will change the world, but we do believe that it will make a world of difference for each family we serve. For 40 years and for as long as the need is there, thank you for helping us make an impact on folks who are at their lowest place.

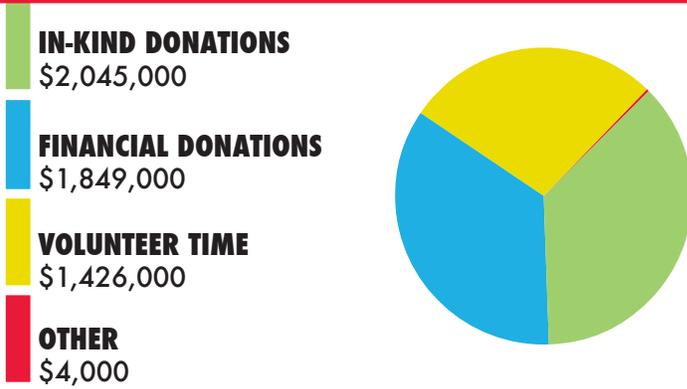
Beverly Howard

2013-2014 BUDGET \$5,324,000

HOW SUPPORT WAS USED



SOURCES OF SUPPORT



BREAKDOWN OF SUPPORT

FINANCIAL DONATIONS	IN-KIND DONATIONS
Individuals 61.1%	Individuals 5.4%
Foundations 15.1%	Congregations 9.5%
Congregations 10.8%	Businesses 39.0%
Businesses 8.6%	Organizations 25.2%
Organizations 2.3%	Government 14.4%
Government 2.1%	Schools/Colleges 6.5%

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Tim Klund - President FBI - Retired	Mark Gay McGladrey, LLP	Kimberly Reynolds Publix
Eddie Livingstone - President Elect Community Volunteer	Karolina Szyber Gunn Carolinas Healthcare	Rodney Sadler, Jr. Union Presbyterian Seminary
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Keri Drake Luquire George Andrews	Stephanie Parker Bank of America	Reginald Willis Ally Bank
		Fernando Ycaza South State Bank

2014 STATISTICS

1,650,000
Pounds of groceries distributed

78,602
People you provided with groceries to prepare in their own home

66,000
Hours Volunteers Provided

37,743
Number of children you assured went to school with a full belly

\$1,027
Average monthly household income of Loaves & Fishes clients

3
Average family size served by Loaves & Fishes

4,410 Volunteers

8 Full-time Staff

3 Part-time Staff

17 Number of Full Pantries

3 Number of Mini Pantries



LOAVES & FISHES

Groceries for Neighbors in Need

40 Years of Impact

648B Griffith Road
Charlotte, NC 28217

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit #2492
Charlotte, NC



Read Heather's
story on page one.

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www.loavesandfishes.org



40 Years



The clothes and hair styles may change, but the
impact continues.

INSIDE:

- 1975-2015 - A Timeline
- What were you doing in 1975?
- Client survey results
- Finances/Statistics



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