



# THE FISHNET

**LOAVES & FISHES**

Groceries for Neighbors in Need

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

## It's A Journey For All of Us



Devonne Moise and Faye Wright

Devonne Moise firmly believes there are guardian angels in place to remind you to keep your head up. She also believes that her guardian angel's name is Faye.

At one point, Devonne and her children were living in a hotel. She felt fortunate when she found a small house to rent but it didn't take long to realize she was living in what she refers to as a "horror house". Even though the house was falling apart, the landlord wouldn't fix anything; there were drug dealers nearby and she was afraid for her children to go outside. But it was all she could afford. Add in utilities, grocery bills plus all the things growing kids need and she realized she needed help.

Having worked since she was 13, Devonne wasn't comfortable asking for help. "I was private and prideful but I had to be strong for my kids," she says. So she got a referral from her child's school and went to the

Loaves & Fishes pantry run by Mt. Carmel Baptist Church.

***Going inside the pantry was tough. She was on the verge of tears but kept thinking, "I am not a bad person because I need food." Sensing Devonne's distress, Loaves & Fishes volunteer Faye Wright came over and gave her a hug. Faye whispered in her ear, "It's okay. God has a plan."***

Devonne was flooded with relief. "I remember her eyes. The way she looked at me, I just saw God and I knew my life would change." "30 minutes here can be life changing. Letting people see there is hope... it gave me something more than food, something that lasted much longer because it's still with me months later." To her guardian angel, Faye Wright, Devonne says "thank you for pulling me up, for looking beyond my circumstances."

Today, Devonne runs the after school program for Jackson Park Ministries. Her children are happy, healthy and life is good. As Devonne says, "It's all about being sensitive to another person that is in a different place - it's a journey for all of us."



### Eligibility Requirement Change

Recognizing that a financial crisis, even one that is short-term, is rarely resolved in a week, Loaves & Fishes has approved a new eligibility requirement for our clients. Instead of once every 45 days, clients may now seek assistance up to 8 times a year. This change will help better fulfill our mission to assist people in crisis situations with nutritious groceries. It is our hope that this change will better reflect the real life situations where many families and individuals face a crisis that may last several weeks.

Receiving groceries for a few weeks in a row will help get families and individuals back on their feet – and help them stay there.

# An Unexpected Gift from the Heart



Once a month, for many years, 8-10 ladies from Ebenezer ARP Church would bring canned goods for Loaves & Fishes to their Tuesday Morning Bible Study. When the cans got too heavy to deal with, they switched to writing checks, their donations totaling \$4,343 in just the past four years! Then the church decided to sell its property on Old Pineville Rd. and merge with nearby Starmount ARP Church.

Prior to the sale, Loaves & Fishes could count on an envelope arriving once a month with cash and checks that the ladies had collected during their Bible Study. So it wasn't that unusual to receive an envelope from the

church office. However, the contents were anything but usual! It's not every day that an envelope containing a check for \$50,000 arrives in the mail. The check was a portion of the proceeds from the sale of the church. Needless to say, there were shouts of joy in the Loaves & Fishes office!



The group is quick to point to Elaine Anderson as the member who urged them to support hunger relief efforts and Loaves & Fishes. Sadly, Elaine recently died, but her big heart continues to inspire them. To Elaine Anderson and the ladies of Ebenezer ARP, many, many thanks for the lives you have changed and the stomachs you have filled. Thank you!

## Leave a Legacy

For over forty years, Loaves & Fishes has been a resource for the hungry in our community. Please help future generations in need by including Loaves &



Fishes in your will or estate. Let us know if you've already taken this step, or to receive information about including Loaves & Fishes in your will or estate, please contact Lucy Mitchell at 704-523-4333 or via email at [Lucy@loavesandfishes.org](mailto:Lucy@loavesandfishes.org).

## Fill A Bag - Feed A Family

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!**



## Your Donations Make a Difference!



A message we received from a client through Facebook:

*"Today I visited Loaves & Fishes in a beautiful church on West Boulevard (Calvary United Methodist). I'm 8 months pregnant, 22 years old and recently was put on leave from my job by my doctor. I was referred to*

*L&F by my amazing visiting nurse (provided by WIC for first time mommies through Care Ring). Inside I was so anxious and embarrassed to be using a food pantry but once I arrived everyone was SO sweet and nice to me. I felt comfortable and relaxed, next thing you know, a shopping cart is being brought to me with bags of food. I almost cried. I had to ask the lovely woman who greeted me whether it was all meant for me or not! Once my daughter is born and I am well off enough to donate I will donate as much as I can to L&F. Thank you all so much."*

**Loaves & Fishes, Inc.**

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

Tina Postel, Executive Director

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# Welcome Loaves & Fishes' Executive Director, Tina Postel

We are thrilled to welcome Tina Postel as Loaves & Fishes' new Executive Director. Tina is a recent transplant to Charlotte from Billings, Montana where she served as Chief Executive Officer for the Billings Family YMCA for five years. A native of Des Moines, Iowa, Tina received a BS in Psychology from the University of Iowa. In December 2007, she completed her Masters Degree in Organizational Leadership for Nonprofit Management from Lewis University in Romeoville, Illinois.

Tina is an active community member participating with several civic and volunteer groups including Rotary and Junior League. She is an avid runner and hiker and even an occasional mountain climber. Tina and her husband Steve reside in Fort Mill, South Carolina with their three children: Seth (age 14), Tatum (age 11) and Talia (age 9).



## It's Only the Beginning...

What a whirlwind my first few months have been at Loaves & Fishes! As I toured each of our pantry locations, I have come face to face with our mission in action. I have watched dedicated volunteers greet clients with a warm smile, I have seen teams of people sort food and restock pantry shelves, and I have witnessed the overwhelming relief on a clients' face as they shopped for their next meal in our pantry.

On only my second day at Loaves & Fishes, Beverly Howard toured me through the first ever Loaves & Fishes pantry at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church. I met a young man named Alfonso who was shopping for his family of five. As he pushed his grocery cart apprehensively around the pantry, his look of amazed gratitude is forever ingrained in my mind as the pantry volunteer told him how many items he still had left to select. Being able to provide something as basic as food and a smile to someone in their darkest hour can be one of life's simplest joys.

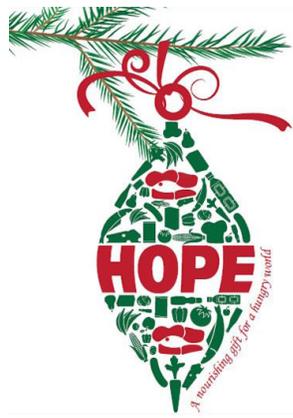
I have spent my entire career in the nonprofit sector working for a wide array of wonderful organizations all across the nation. I have worked for local and national organizations in the areas of human services, health and wellness, child development and the arts. Although this is my first leadership role in hunger relief, something about my experience already with Loaves & Fishes feels viscerally familiar.



*Tina Postel, Executive Director*

The work we do is hard but it isn't complicated. We are in the business of kindness and there is nothing more fulfilling than that. For those of you I've been blessed to meet in my first few months, thank you for the warm welcome. For those of you I've yet to meet, I look forward to a future opportunity to connect with you.

I've seen some amazing things so far at Loaves & Fishes, and it's only the beginning. Meeting people like Alfonso make me feel like I'm home.



# 'Tis the Season!

## Holiday Alternative

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).

## Hillside Holiday Hunger Drive-Through

Don't miss the beautiful holiday light display on Hillside Avenue in the Myers Park neighborhood nightly in December. Enjoy the lights and drop off food donations at the drive-through collection site on the street. Neighbors will be on hand to collect your donations of food and funds. Just look for the big tent and Loaves & Fishes barrels.



## #GivingTuesdayCLT

After battling the crowds and getting amazing deals on Black Friday and Cyber Monday, wouldn't it feel great to DO GOOD? Here's your chance. November 29 is Giving Tuesday, globally recognized as a day dedicated to giving. In Charlotte, we're celebrating #GivingTuesdayCLT with 170 other local nonprofits. Together we're working to raise \$8,000,000 for our community!

### Be a part of it:

- Make a gift of funds or food to Loaves & Fishes.
- Pledge volunteer hours with us for 2017.
- Like us on social media and share our posts (don't forget to use the hashtag #GivingTuesdayCLT).
- Check out [GivingTuesdayCLT.org](http://GivingTuesdayCLT.org) for more ways to get involved.

## Harris Teeter Harvest Feast



Harris Teeter's annual Harvest Feast Food Drive and Donation Card Campaign 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 over \$33,000 for Loaves & Fishes!

## WFNZ Street Turkeys - November 23



The day before Thanksgiving is our annual WFNZ Street Turkeys turkey drive. We'll be collecting turkeys and financial donations for the holidays, so head down to the WFNZ Coca-Cola Dog House on the corner of Mint and Morehead St. on Wednesday, November 23. Just look for the giant turkey!



## Protein to the People

Anna Keener is a young woman on a mission. Her goal? To connect eggs from the growing popularity of backyard chickens with hungry neighbors in need. Anna has collected dozens of eggs from local neighborhoods and made deliveries to several of our pantries. She calls it Protein to the People. Our pantries are delighted to receive the fresh eggs in their rainbow hues. The project is part of her Girl Scout Gold Award.



## Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk

It was a glorious day for the **2016 Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk**, Sunday, October 16! The Loaves & Fishes team joined thousands of walkers for the 3.6 mile walk which symbolizes the average round trip people in developing nations walk daily to get clean water. Funds raised for the CROP Walk fight hunger and poverty both locally and globally.



## A Can If You Can Girl Scout Food Drive

The Girl Scouts of Hornets Nest Council in Davidson, Huntersville and Cornelius held their annual **A Can If You Can** food drive for Loaves & Fishes on Saturday, October 8th. They set their goal for 10,000 lbs. Little did they know that Hurricane Matthew would dump several inches of rain as they went door-to-door collecting food. But the girls persevered and at the end of the day, they blew their goal of 10,000 lbs out of the water by collecting over 13,000 lbs. of food! Way to go, girls!



## Beverly Howard Awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine

In honor of her three decades of fighting hunger and poverty in Charlotte-Mecklenburg, Beverly Howard was awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, among the most prestigious awards given to a citizen in the state of North Carolina. Beverly retired in May after 28 years Executive Director of Loaves & Fishes. The award was presented to Beverly at her retirement luncheon. Thank you, Beverly, for your tireless efforts on behalf of the hungry and Loaves & Fishes. Best wishes to Beverly on her retirement!

Beverly Howard and Board Member Mike Wilson



**LOAVES & FISHES**

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648 B Griffith Road  
Charlotte, NC 28217

Return Service Requested

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