



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.

Hidden Hunger: Elizabeth's Story



Elizabeth's family has no idea she is hungry and she wants to keep it that way.

Elizabeth is a full-time student at Central Piedmont Community College. She also has a full-time job and still manages to squeeze in internships for her major. Add to that studying, writing papers, school projects and homework and you can see that Elizabeth works hard every day.

She also works hard to make ends meet, budgeting her paycheck to cover rent, bills, books and school. But on occasion, there isn't enough left over for food, maybe \$20 to last almost two weeks. She admits it's hard, "...when you've got projects and **you haven't eaten in two days and you still have to type out this paper.**"

Elizabeth is not the type of person to ask for help. She doesn't want anyone to know, not even family or friends.

Sadly, her situation is not unique. There are other students, on college campuses here in Charlotte, who also find themselves struggling.

"There's a lot of people who, you'd never think are going through this, students who go full-time and they're working and they're doing everything right, getting great grades, but not having food at home, and they're afraid to ask," she says. "And you wouldn't know it until they had a bad day and broke down and they tell you. I've had some acquaintances who were living in a hotel room and going to school and didn't have food."

Luckily, one of her teachers noticed that something was not right. When Elizabeth explained she had no food, her teacher sent her to Student Services who referred her to Loaves & Fishes.

Coming to the Loaves & Fishes pantry was "...an absolute lifesaver because it's enough to last me until the next paycheck and no one has to know." Treated with dignity and kindness, the experience was just like going to a grocery store. She could get what she needed and as she told us, "...get out and live your life."

Elizabeth wants her life to be a normal as possible. Once this rough patch is behind her she is hopeful there won't be a next time.

Fortunately, Loaves & Fishes will be there if she or anyone else needs help making ends meet.

You can find a video with more of Elizabeth's story, in her own words, on our website at www.loavesandfishes.org.

For more on how Loaves & Fishes is growing to meet the hunger needs of college students in our community, turn to page 3.

Publix and Schools Share That “Can Do” Spirit!



What started out as a food drive challenge became an amazing story about one Charlotte-Mecklenburg school “sharing the love” with three other schools.

Last fall, Loaves & Fishes was awarded a \$20,000 grant by **Publix Super Market Charities** for the “Can Do” School Food Drive Challenge. **Providence Spring Elementary** won the challenge by collecting **11,139 lbs of food**. The



two runner up schools, **Carmel Middle** (3,892 lbs) and **Eastover Elementary** (3,698 lbs), each received \$2,500 to use for playground equipment.

As the school raising the most food, Providence Spring received \$15,000 to purchase playground equipment. Inspired by the kindness and giving spirit exhibited by their students during the drive, they decided to divide their winnings with three smaller schools that also participated in the food drive: **Reid Park Academy, Walter G. Byers and Westerly Hills Academy.**



Loaves & Fishes Executive Director, Tina Postel and Publix Media & Communications Manager Kim Reynolds, along with the Publix mascot “Plato the Publixaurus”, presented checks to representatives from all four schools.



71 schools participated in the “Can Do” Food Drive Challenge collecting a total of 83,435 lbs of food for Loaves & Fishes. 48% of our clients are children and a number of referrals come from school counselors.

Leaving 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 email at Lucy@loavesandfishes.org.



Your gift will continue to make a difference, impacting many lives for years to come.

Loaves & Fishes, Inc.
648 B Griffith Rd
Charlotte, NC 28217
Phone: 704-523-4333 Fax: 704-523-5901
www.loavesandfishes.org
Tina Postel, Executive Director

A Good (Re)Turn!



A HUGE thank you to the **Mecklenburg County Council of Boy Scouts** for doing their **Good Turn for America** by collecting over **240,000 lbs** of food during the **2017 Scouting for Food!**



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Fighting Food Insecurity in DC and At Home



In March, Executive Director Tina Postel, along with Volunteer & Food Drive Coordinator Shay Merritt, attended the **Anti-Hunger Policy Conference in Washington, DC**. Together with 1,300 hunger fighters from all 50 states, they shared information, best practices and concerns, especially over future funding of food stamp and child hunger programs. With a delegation from N.C., the two spent a morning on Capitol Hill advocating on behalf of our clients by visiting with N.C. senators and representatives.

Postel added, "As government priorities are reviewed at local, state and national levels in the coming year, it is imperative that we represent the needs and challenges the hungry and food insecure face. Hard working families and children cannot succeed without food on their table. It is our job not only to feed those hungry families but to bring light to this largely invisible problem".

At an early April press conference, N.C. Congress-woman Alma Adams asked Loaves & Fishes to speak to the need facing our clients as she announced the **Closing The Meal Gap Act 2017**. The announcement was followed by a round table to discuss local food insecurity with representatives from over 15 hunger relief organizations and programs. Roundtable members hope to continue conversations to discuss how they can work and advocate together to effectively fight poverty and hunger in our community.

North Carolina continues to rank among the fifteen worst states in the percentage of children lacking food on a regular basis. 94% of Loaves & Fishes clients often or sometimes worry about food running out before they have money to buy more.



From Our First Director in 1984...

To Today, the Pantry Network Continues to Grow



Marty Furr and Tina Postel

In 1984, when Marty Furr became Loaves & Fishes' first paid executive director, it was a part-time job she ran from her home's guest room with a phone and an ironing board serving as a makeshift desk. Today, Loaves & Fishes has not only a full-time director, but 12 paid staffers, a 25,750-square-foot office and warehouse but also four trucks, one of them refrigerated.

Loaves & Fishes is thrilled to announce the opening of three new pantries to better serve our neighbors in need. **Hope Covenant House**, located in the Oakview Terrace community off of Brookshire Freeway, **will serve** clients a week's worth of groceries Tuesdays and Fridays from 3-7pm.



Andrea, the first client at Hope Covenant House

"This is a million miles away from where I started," Furr says.

At one time, Furr dreamed of feeding enough people to fill the "Dean Dome" at UNC Chapel Hill (capacity 21,750). Now Loaves & Fishes feeds nearly enough people to fill 75,412-seat Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte.

On a recent trip to Charlotte from her home in Wilmington, Furr visited Loaves & Fishes. She was executive director from 1984-1989, after Virginia Sampson ("my mentor") ran it as a volunteer from the program's founding in 1975 until Furr was hired.

Calling her visit a "mountaintop experience," Furr says her work at Loaves & Fishes was a "true calling to serve God. It changed my life."

Hope Covenant House is joined by two additional "mini" pantries, one on **Central Piedmont Community College's main campus** and the other at **Johnson C. Smith University**. These pantries will serve the campus communities and provide an emergency two-day supply of groceries until they can get to a full-size pantry. Few realize how many students are juggling school while working at the same time and many find themselves in need of extra help.

The opening of these pantries was made possible by the generosity of **Lori and Eric Sklut**. Thanks to a matching challenge grant by the Skluts, **\$133,852 in donations** were raised to help launch and stock all three pantries. Thank you!



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Charlotte, NC 28217

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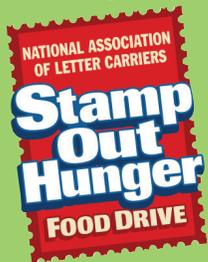


May 13

25th Annual Stamp Out Hunger Letter Carriers Food Drive

On Saturday, May 13, leave a bag of nonperishable food items for your letter carrier to pick up and help Stamp Out Hunger!

Volunteers are needed to sort food at various postal locations. Contact Volunteer & Food Drive Coordinator Shay Merritt at shay@loavesandfishes.org to volunteer.



August 26

Tour de Turns www.tourdeturns.org



**MOSTLY RIGHT-HAND TURNS,
1,000's OF SHADE TREES,
25 NEIGHBORHOODS...**

ONE GREAT CAUSE

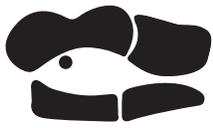


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Thank you for helping put food on my table for my 8 year old son and I. This means we will be ok for a few more days. Thanks for helping lift my burden a little more and not worry.

-A note from one of our clients



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Tim Morrissey*

Netta Moseley*

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*Past President

Beverly

The Beverly Howard Legacy Fund



"As theologian, Frederick Buechner puts it, 'The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet.' The great gift of my life has been that this community and Loaves & Fishes provided that place for me."

Beverly Howard

Passion, Dedicaton, Commitment, Love of Community

These words characterize Beverly's leadership years with Loaves & Fishes and her gift to our community.

We are pleased to announce the establishment of the Beverly Howard Legacy Fund in honor of Beverly's 28 years as Loaves & Fishes Executive Director.

Through the generosity of the donors listed on the reverse side, the endowment opened with \$300,000 at the Foundation for the Carolinas to create a more sustainable community in support of the future of Loaves & Fishes.

You can be a member of the Beverly Howard Legacy Fund. Please contact Lucy Mitchell – lucy@loavesandfishes.org or 704-523-4333 for more details.

Beverly Howard Legacy Fund

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listed incorrectly or as anonymous,
please let us know.*



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