



LOAVES & FISHES

Groceries for Neighbors in Need

P.O. Box 11234
Charlotte, NC 28220

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From the People You Help

Thank you so much. After doing this unpaid training for my new job I had no way of providing my 3 year old with something to eat and it seemed like I had nowhere to turn...But the lord always makes a way out of no way - Thank you, Tai



"...[Roger] was without work since May of 2012 and was making do on his limited savings as he was looking for work. You helped him significantly. He [called] me after he picked up food... to tell me every item that he received. I felt so good

knowing he had food. I live in New York and could not help him directly so knowing that he had a place to get good nourishing food warmed my heart. Roger died on August 1, 2013... Sincerely, Diana Geller [Roger's sister]

Did You Know...

-  Your company may pay you to volunteer for Loaves & Fishes. Check with your human resource department.
-  You can make your donation go farther..... Your company may offer to match your contributions to Loaves & Fishes. Check with your employer.
-  You can leave a lasting gift by remembering Loaves & Fishes in your will, ensuring that the needs of the hungry continue to be met.



Thanks to everyone for supporting the 35th Annual Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk, October 13th, to eliminate hunger locally and globally. Last year Loaves & Fishes received over \$25,000 from the Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk.



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THE FISHNET

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

Every Day Is an Opportunity



For Tawan, every day is an opportunity. But she would be the first to tell you that it didn't always seem that way.

Things were good for Tawan and her 3 children. She had come out of an abusive relationship and found happiness with a boyfriend who had a good job and was working on his master's degree. She decided to stay home after the birth of her third child and finish her degree in journalism.

Then the bottom fell out.

Her boyfriend injured his knee in a church league basketball game and had to have surgery. Next he was laid off. Unemployment was not enough to live on and suddenly, they couldn't afford the \$1200 a month in rent.

They were able to move and take over the \$800 mortgage payments on his grandparents' house. He got a new job and they started to

save for a new house. However, due to her son's severe asthma, the 40-year-old shag carpeting in the grandparent's house had to go and with it, their savings.

They sat down and created a spreadsheet in order to budget their income and cut expenses everywhere they could. But when her son is sick it throws the budget off. Tawan's son has been hospitalized several times for his asthma and allergies and requires multiple medications to keep his health in check. Copays add up. Then the car broke down and needed a \$1600 repair. Gas was adding up to \$240 a month. They were looking for ways just to have money for groceries.

"My three year old asks, Mommy, can I have some yogurt, No, we don't have it - can I have apple-sauce, No, we don't have it - can I have peanut butter and jelly no- we don't have any bread."

Their income was too high for food stamps because the overtime her boyfriend was working put them over the limit. Tawan knew she had to do something. She had lots of job experience, interview skills and knew how to use a computer. She went to Job Link for help finding a job. They made a referral to Loaves & Fishes.

Tawan received a week's supply of groceries for her family. *"They were so happy! Oh my goodness! ...it's so humbling to go through so much and I'm so grateful. People just don't understand that I just need a chance."*

But as Tawan says, "Every day is an opportunity." Last month, the phone rang. It was a job offer as an account manager. Tawan was asked if she would like to review the package and get back to them. *"I said, 'No, I'll take it! I was trying to end the call because I was so emotional. I pulled over and I just cried."*

When asked what she would have done without Loaves & Fishes, Tawan says she is glad she didn't have to find out. *"Imagine a parent can't feed their child and have to watch them go hungry. It can be the difference between more children being in the hospital or sick. It goes beyond just the meal they get that day. There might be somebody out there that's going to steal and go to jail just because they want to feed their kid. Then they're in the system. People don't understand. It starts with that."*

Inside - Beverly Howard celebrates 25 years at Loaves & Fishes

Looking for ways to make a difference?



Harris Teeter's annual Harvest Feast runs throughout the month of November. Purchase a \$1, \$5, or \$20 donation card at your local Harris Teeter Store. Last year's campaign raised more than \$44,000 for Loaves & Fishes! Thank you for your support at the checkout lane.

Give the Gift of Hope

This holiday season in lieu of gifts, consider honoring the special people on your gift list by making a donation to Loaves & Fishes and putting groceries on the table of someone in need.

Simply provide us with the names and addresses of the friends or family members you would like to honor for a minimum donation of \$10 per card. We'll take care of the rest. Look for your flyer soon or go to the website to place your order.



WFNZ's Street Turkeys

Start your Thanksgiving holiday off right! The day before Thanksgiving, drop by the WFNZ's AAA Dog House on the corner of Morehead and Mint Streets. We will be there all day collecting turkeys and cash donations for the holidays. Turkey costumes are optional!

Last Christmas, 17-year-old **Mason Schmitt** rallied her neighbors to hang lighted Christmas balls on her street, using the beautiful display to collect food for Loaves & Fishes. You can do it too! Visit our website www.loavesandfishes.org and click on the agency materials tab for instructions on how to create your own neighborhood holiday food drive.



Our website has a list of food drive ideas and how to get started at www.loavesandfishes.org under the agency materials tab.

Food Drive themes include Breakfast of Champions, Meat Hunger Head On, and more. Or, contact us with your idea, like **Brian Price** a 5th grader whose theme is *Kickstart for Kids* a breakfast food drive he's conducting at his school.



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Celebrating 25 Years



Amy Jacks Dean (above left) and the board of directors celebrated Beverly Howard's 25 years as Executive Director of Loaves & Fishes!

This fall we celebrate **Beverly Howard's** 25th year as Executive Director of Loaves & Fishes. When Beverly started in 1988 the staff consisted of two people. There were 6 food pantries, no delivery trucks or warehouse and 22,574 people were fed.

Today, the staff consists of 10 staff, 19 food pantries, 3 trucks, a van and a 25,000 square foot warehouse. In 2012, Loaves & Fishes fed 126,803 people. Thank you, Beverly, for your passion and commitment for 25 years!



With only one commercial freezer in our warehouse, we frequently had to rent additional freezer space. Thanks to generous gifts from **Roy and Christine Tidwell, Harris Teeter** and the pantries at **Holy Comforter** and **Huntersville UMC**, a new 400 square ft. freezer will keep perishable foods stored in one place.

The Newest Pantry



We are delighted to welcome **Sugaw Creek Presbyterian Church** as the newest Loaves & Fishes food pantry. A generous grant from the **John S. and James L. Knight Foundation** made it possible to purchase new refrigerators, freezers and shelving for the pantry as well as stock the shelves with food for several months. Above, summer intern, Elizabeth Cooper, drops off supplies at the pantry.

In 2012, volunteers donated the equivalent of 32 fulltime staff people.



At their Ballantyne ground-breaking in March, **Publix** donated a truckload of food and in July began donating a truckload a month! Above Beverly Howard meets with our new friends from Publix.