



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.

PRIORITY NEEDS:

CANNED MEATS

CANNED PASTA

CANNED FRUIT

CEREAL

100% FRUIT JUICES

The pantry at Holy Comforter Episcopal was buzzing.

Volunteer Lil Dillard was helping client Thomas choose a week's worth of groceries while his granddaughter Harmoni sat in the grocery cart, holding tight to a box of corn muffin mix. Over at the refrigerator, another volunteer was bagging Thomas' yogurt and cheese.

Across the room, Celeste began to cry.

"My house was vandalized," she told us. "Three front windows were broken while I was away for Christmas. When I arrived back home on Christmas morning, there was a large brick under my tree by one window. I had to replace all three windows." Then, a few weeks later, she was hit with an "insanely" high heating bill. It was enough to tip the balance and Celeste had to ask for help.

Celeste's son, Dude, has Down Syndrome. So on top of receiving a week's worth of nutritionally balanced groceries for the two of them, she was able to take home pet food for his service dog.

She also took home much more. "Loaves & Fishes saved us that month and the great spirit remains with us after the food is gone."

"I was so surprised at the kindness and the simplicity of receiving food. No one made me feel guilty for needing."

The morning we met Celeste, she told us "I was interviewed for a referral yesterday and am here picking up



Local writer Celeste Hart with volunteer Hilda Yost. Tears, smiles & hugs: "I'm going to be crying all day."

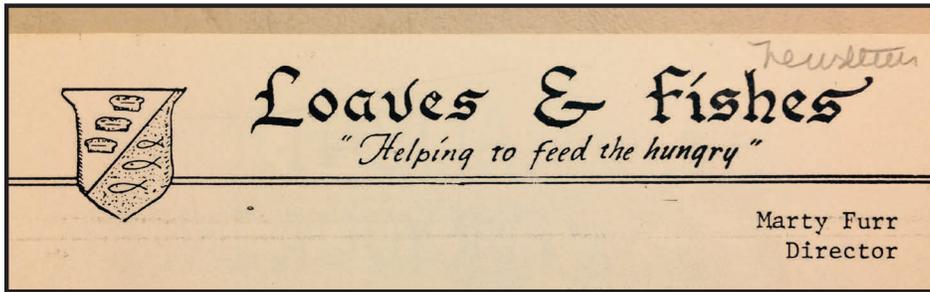
food today.", and as volunteer Hilda Yost pointed out, "You'll be eating tonight!"

With that came fresh tears, smiles and one last hug from Hilda. Celeste laughed as she dabbed her eyes, "I'm going to be crying all day."

Numbers can be hard to imagine: 93% of our clients surveyed reported that at some time in the last 12 months they ran out of food before they had money to buy more.

Because of you, 78,602 people received a week's worth of nutritionally balanced meals in 2014. That brings us back down to the numbers fed annually before the recession. But numbers don't tell the story - people do. ***Imagine this:*** 78,602 hungry people in Mecklenburg County is enough to fill Bank of America stadium. Your generosity makes sure each and every person who comes to Loaves & Fishes is fed with dignity and respect.

Where were you in 1975?



In 1975, a small but determined group of people decided to do something about hungry people in our community. This was before there was a soup kitchen or any shelters. They began by distributing food from the church pantry at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church. Some days they made sandwich-

es, some days they made soup, and often they gave out groceries for people to take home to prepare their own meals. They gave whatever they had donated. That first year they helped 1,000 people. Soon other neighborhoods in Charlotte heard what they were doing and said, "If they can do that over on Park Road, we can do it, too." **Loaves & Fishes was born.**



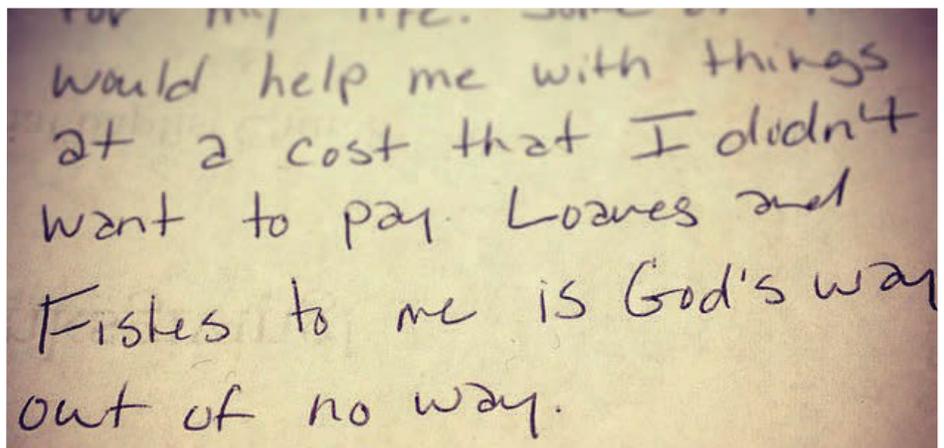
Fast forward 40 years. Today, Loaves & Fishes has evolved into a network of 20 food pantries, with a 25,000 sq. foot warehouse, 11 staff members, 4 trucks and 4,000 volunteers providing a week's worth of nutritionally balanced groceries to 78,602 people last year.

This month we are kicking off our anniversary by celebrating our amazing volunteers with our annual volunteer appreciation dinner on April 23. Then, on September 26, we invite you to dig out your bellbottoms and platform shoes and join us for our 40th Anniversary Celebration complete with a 70's theme.

Won't you be a part of the next chapter?

The Need is Great, But So Is the Gratitude

Your donation helps a family with more than a week's worth of nutritious food. It also helps provide peace of mind for desperate parents to find a way out of no way.



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loaves and fishes charlotte mecklenburg



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Scouting for Food 2015



On February 7th, thousands of Mecklenburg Co. Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts collected over **260,000lbs of food** during Scouting for Food.

To everyone who left a bag of food on their porch or dropped it in a barrel at Harris Teeter stores, **THANK YOU!**



You Put Smiles on Twice as Many Faces

Wait, make that five times as many faces!



Our good friends Eric and Lori Sklut once again generously offered to match up to \$25,000 in donations to Loaves & Fishes through the **Levine-Sklut Family Foundation**. You responded to the challenge by donating \$120,520!



The timing could not have been more critical. With record low temperatures during January and February, more people were hit with higher utility bills, creating hard decisions, whether to pay for heat or feed their families.

Upcoming Events:



May 9 - Stamp Out Hunger NALC Food Drive Volunteers are needed to drive mail routes collecting food donations or to sort food at various postal locations. Contact Volunteer Coordinator Valerie Crockett at valerie@loavesandfishes.org if you would like to volunteer.



May 10 - Mother's Day Honor your mother with a gift to Loaves & Fishes in her name. Send your donation in the enclosed envelope or go online at www.LoavesAndFishes.org.

Don't forget Dad! **Father's Day is June 21.**

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648 B Griffith Road
Charlotte, NC 28217

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
PAID
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Charlotte, NC



For 40 years you
have been making
sure that children,
like Harmoni, go
to bed with a full
tummy.



LOAVES & FISHES

Groceries for Neighbors in Need

1975-2015

Celebrating 40 years of impact

