



LOAVES & FISHES

Groceries for Neighbors in Need

THE FISHNET

OUR MISSION IS TO PROVIDE A WEEK'S WORTH OF GROCERIES TO PEOPLE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY FACING ECONOMIC HARDSHIPS.

www.loavesandfishes.org

HOLLY & IVY

Holly and Ivy just go together.

Shopping together for a week's worth of groceries and chatting like two old friends, Holly was showing Ivy the pasta sauce she liked best while Ivy shared which vegetables her kids liked to eat.

You would never guess they had just met.

Ivy never imagined she would ever need to come to Loaves & Fishes. She had worked for 17 1/2 years at a medical office in town. It was a good job that she enjoyed. After recovery from surgery took weeks longer than expected, her job was not there when she came back. That was two years ago.

Now a single parent, the past two years have been a constant struggle for Ivy. Struggles with ongoing health issues and struggles to get her disability insurance straightened out. In the meantime, she tells Holly, she lost everything - her job, her car and recently she had to move out of her house. She has lost 60 pounds due to the worry and stress.

Then her son's elementary school counselor referred her to Loaves & Fishes. Ivy had never



been to Loaves & Fishes before and wasn't sure what to expect. That's where she met Holly, who volunteers every Wednesday at the pantry at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church.

It's been hard on the whole family. But as she tells Holly, "I try to keep going but the constant worry and stress of not knowing... I can't change certain things but the worry is killing me."

One thing she does know. "It will be a relief not to have to wonder how to feed my children." Today, thanks to you, she has a shopping cart filled with groceries and a new friend in Holly.

HUNGER HEROES

In December, our generous friends and hunger heroes, **Lori and Eric Sklut** laid down a challenge - they would match donations dollar for dollar up to \$25,000. You accepted the challenge, generating \$144,776 to feed neighbors in need. We are so grateful! Thank You!!

The Boy Scouts did it in ONE DAY! - On February 3, Mecklenburg Co. Boy Scouts collected over 230,000 lbs. of food for this year's super bowl of food drives - **Scouting for Food!** Many thanks to the **Meck. Co. Council of BSA**, and sponsors **Harris Teeter, NBC Charlotte, The New 103.7 WSOC**, and **Stegall Trucking** for being our hunger heroes!

RIP BIG LOAFIE



We are sad to announce the demise of our only refrigerated truck, fondly named Big Loafie. This truck was constantly on the road for fifteen years, transporting food to our pantries throughout Mecklenburg Co. A refrigerated truck is necessary not only to deliver the fresh meat, eggs, yogurt and cheese we currently provide in our pantries but also to include more fresh produce. With the addition of eleven new pantries in 2017, it was urgent that we purchase and get a new truck on the road, ideally before our busy summer season. But the cost of a refrigerated truck was a daunting \$110,000.

When the **The Leon Levine Foundation** heard about the demise of Big Loafie, it challenged us to raise half the money for a new truck; if we were successful, the Foundation would match those funds and provide the remaining half. Thanks to so many generous donors and supporters - we have met the match!! Thanks to YOU, we hope to have Big Loafie #2 on the road soon just in time for summer deliveries!!!

CLIENT NOTES

"A hand held out for me when I need it."

"Loaves & Fishes means togetherness. It's wonderful to see great people helping when you come in. I would like to say thank you all for donations and for helping my family at a hard time."

Thank you,
-T. Jones and boys

"A peace of mind in our time of need. When embarrassment hits and you're down on your luck. You just have to thank GOD for resources such as this."

YOUR INTERNET SECURITY IS OUR PRIORITY

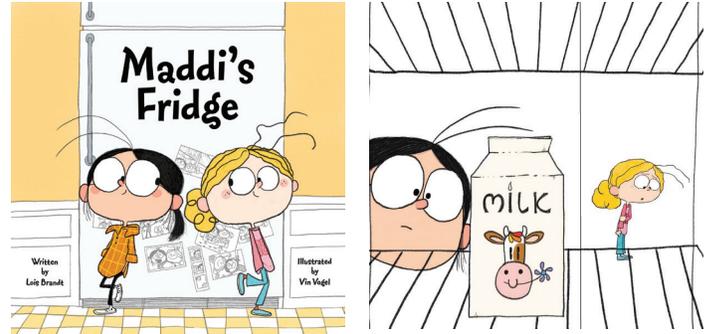


If you experience trouble accessing the Loaves & Fishes Donate Page, your operating system and browser may need to be upgraded to the latest version. This will ensure your donation is processed safely and securely and that your computer is compliant with industry-wide payment processing requirements. Your security is our priority. Thank you!

RAISING CHILDREN WHO CARE

Best friends Sofia and Maddi live in the same neighborhood, go to the same school, and play in the same park, but while Sofia's fridge at home is full of nutritious food, the fridge in Maddi's house is empty. Sofia promises not to tell. Now what can she do?

Maddi's Fridge is a colorful children's book that tells the story of two friends - one is hungry and begs her friend not to tell. On May 31st, join Loaves & Fishes for a very special event; **"Raising Children Who Care; A conversation with Lois Brandt."** Ms. Brandt, the award-winning author of *Maddi's Fridge* will speak at a luncheon in Jubilee Hall at Myers Park United Methodist Church. A limited number of copies of Maddi's Fridge will be available for purchase beginning at 11:30am. Tickets are \$10 and are available through the Loaves & Fishes website: www.loavesandfishes.org.

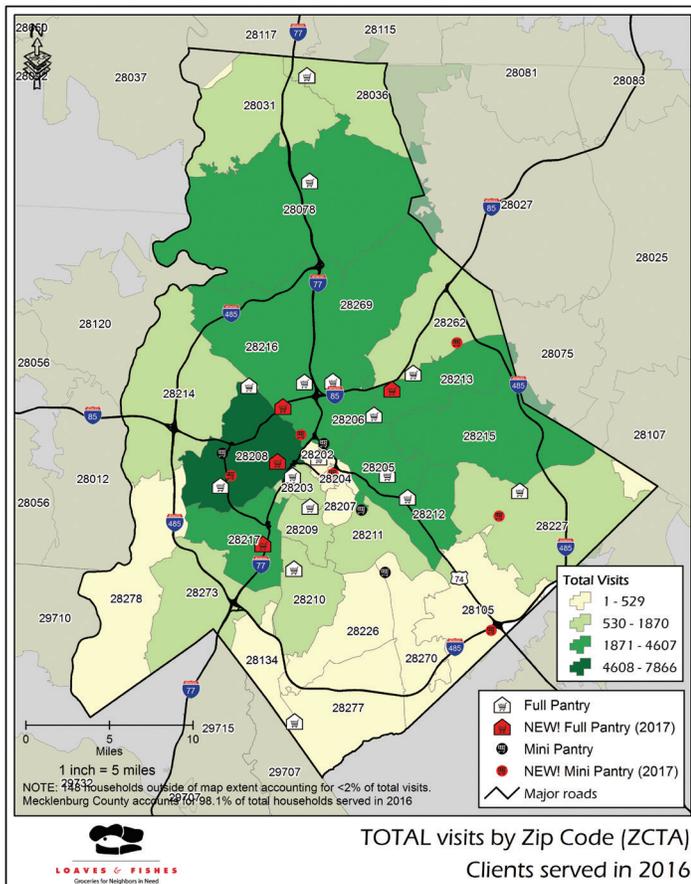


Don't miss this opportunity to learn how to talk to children about childhood hunger and poverty while instilling important lessons in friendship, empathy, and helping others.

Publix®

WHERE SHOPPING IS A PLEASURE®

MEETING OUR NEIGHBORS WHERE THEY ARE



In an effort to better understand how we can best serve our neighbors in need, Loaves & Fishes partnered with UNC-Chapel Hill for a study using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping technology. The shades of green show where our clients live with the largest population indicated in dark green. Using the map legend, you can find Loaves & Fishes pantries are located in areas of greatest need. The red dots show new pantries opened in 2017. The map goes hand-in-hand with data from Charlotte's 2017 Opportunity Task Force report that shows a distinct crescent of poverty encircling our city center.

The information from these maps will help us determine where to locate future pantries and how best to serve the neighbors in these areas. Priorities will include:

- Upgrading and adding new technology
- Prioritizing pantry development and expansion in dense food insecure neighborhoods
- Increasing amount of fresh produce available



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Find out all the latest happenings at Loaves & Fishes by signing up to receive our e-newsletter and follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. To sign up for all the latest updates, upcoming events and ways you can get involved, visit www.loavesandfishes.org.

- » **May 12 - Stamp Out Hunger Letter Carriers' Food Drive** - Volunteers are Needed! Contact Volunteer and Food Drive Coordinator Shay Merritt to volunteer - shay@loavesandfishes.org
- » **May 31 - Raising Children Who Care** - A Conversation with Lois Brandt, award-winning author of *Maddi's Fridge* - More Information Inside
- » **August 25 - Tour de Turns** - benefitting Loaves & Fishes www.tourdeturns.org.

**"NEVER JUDGE BECAUSE
YOU NEVER KNOW WHERE
YOU MAY BE TOMORROW."**

READ IVY'S STORY ON PAGE ONE



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