



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

I WOULD DO WITHOUT BEFORE MY KIDS



Ida and her son Keith stood in front of a shelf filled with choices of canned fruit. She gently urged Keith to make the choice for their family. When he couldn't decide, she pointed and said, "I know you really like that." Smiling, he nodded and put the cans in their cart.

Something as simple as choosing between a can of peaches or a can of pears can be a powerful thing when choice is something you don't often have.

Ida, her husband and three children have limited income. Her husband worked for 30 years making a good living but now he's on disability so it makes it difficult. "We do good at the beginning of the month," she says, "then closer to the end of the month it's sometimes kind of hard." That's when it

can come down to a different kind of choice, paying the bills or having food on the table.

But Ida is quick to point out that it's hard for everybody, not just certain people. Hard times can impact anyone at any time.

She implores us to look around and pay attention to the people that we see - men, women, children, the homeless. Having access to food really makes a difference to the people you see. As Ida puts it, "You don't realize how much you are changing someone's life. Without it, I don't know what I would do for food for my kids. **I would do without before my kids went without. I don't want to see a child go without food.**"

Thanks to you, she won't have to.

OUR PARTNERS IN FIGHTING HUNGER



Thank you to everyone who rode, walked, sponsored, donated and cheered on **The 7th Annual Tour de Turns** cycling event sponsored by **ReMax**! Thanks to you, Loaves & Fishes received over \$55,000 to help turn the corner on local hunger! Mark your calendars now for next year's ride, **August 24, 2019**.



At a press conference held in our warehouse in August, **Publix Supermarket Charities** presented Loaves & Fishes Executive Director Tina Postel with a check for **\$20,000**! This generous gift will provide sturdy tote bags for our pantry clients who walk or carry groceries on the bus.

Shelf stable milk is one of the dairy options offered in our pantries. It's easier to transport and store, eliminating the need for refrigeration, therefore making it convenient for clients taking the bus to fit a quart in a backpack. Thank you to **Harris Teeter** for donating **\$13,000** from their annual golf tournament for the purchase of shelf stable milk.

COMMUNITY COLLABORATION



Loaves & Fishes is honored to be a community partner of Mecklenburg County's first **Community Resource Center** (CRC). The CRC, located at the Valerie Woodard Center on Freedom Drive, is the first of six planned CRC's to provide multiple services in one location, **including a Loaves & Fishes pantry** for emergency food needs, improving access to services and quality of life for our neighbors in Mecklenburg Co. Since opening in June, the pantry has served over 3,000 people, making it one of the most utilized services at the Community Resource Center.



IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS THAT WE DO IN LIFE

by Pantry Coordinator Linda Smith

I coordinate the Loaves & Fishes pantry at Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte, a place where people of many different traditions are welcomed and served. But they also provide service to those of us that volunteer there.

Oftentimes it is so much more than the food that they receive. Sometimes they need someone to talk to and we will listen and talk with them. As a client is checked in, they will sometimes talk about what is happening in their lives and we will listen. As they go through the pantry with a volunteer, they will talk to that volunteer, share things with them and he or she will listen. Sometimes a person going through the pantry will not take as much food as they are entitled to and say, "Oh, I have some of that item at home. Let's leave it for someone who needs it more than I do."

It is not unusual for them to give us a hug when they leave and it is not unusual for us to hug them back.



They have been fed physically and emotionally. In addition, we have been fed emotionally as well by being with our clients and having them share their stories with us.

It is the little things that we do in life that often times have a much larger impact on someone than we can even begin to imagine.

LOAVES & FISHES BEHIND THE SCENES



We are delighted to share that **Shay Merritt** has transitioned into a new role as **Grants and Advocacy Coordinator** for Loaves & Fishes. Shay has spent a lot of time researching poverty and hunger in our community and is excited to put that research to use, writing and researching grants and advocating on behalf of the clients that we serve. Congratulations Shay!



Please join us in welcoming the newest member of the Loaves & Fishes team, **Volunteer and Food Drive Coordinator, Danielle Moore**. Danielle is actually returning to the Loaves & Fishes family as she interned with us while working on her Masters Degree in Public Health from UNC Charlotte. As part of her internship, she researched ways to distribute more fresh produce in our pantries. Welcome Danielle!



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Loaves & Fishes, Inc.
648 Griffith Road, Suite B
Charlotte, NC 28217

Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage
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Permit #2492
Charlotte, NC

THE FISHNET NEWSLETTER

GIVE THE GIFT
THAT REFLECTS THE TRUE MEANING
OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON.



LOAVES & FISHES HOLIDAY CARDS

This holiday season, honor the loved ones on your list by putting groceries in homes of neighbors like Deshown featured in this year's Loaves & Fishes holiday card.

Deshown and his siblings recently went to live with his grandparents who have gone from an empty, quiet house to a home filled with laughter and love. And three extra mouths to feed. That's where you and Loaves & Fishes make a difference.

To order any of the three holiday card designs, please visit www.loavesandfishes.org.

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