



**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](http://www.loavesandfishes.org)

## LIFTING UP CLIENTS WITH HOME DELIVERIES

In the early weeks of the pandemic when COVID 19 started impacting neighbors in Mecklenburg Co., Loaves & Fishes was forced to close our 41 brick and mortar food pantries, switching to distributing groceries at drive through mobile pantries. Before long, we saw a new challenge arise, the importance of getting food to clients in quarantine. These clients had been infected by, exposed to, or were at high-risk of contracting the virus. We quickly pulled together resources and volunteers and coordinated a way to begin delivering groceries to these populations.

As word started to spread about the new Home Delivery Program, we realized we had the means to expand the program to our clients who are elderly, who do not have transportation, or are disabled. **Today, we are serving an average of 75 households per week, using a fleet of around 20 volunteers.**

Last month, we received a call from Dianne, who had just received a week's worth of groceries delivered directly to her doorstep. Dianne, age 79 and her grandson were amazed and grateful for all of the food. "You all are a Godsend," she said. "It did more than help, It lifted me." We are proud to say we will be continuing this home delivery program into the future, allowing us to serve more neighbors like Dianne. We are now one step closer to solving hunger in Mecklenburg County and have all of our dedicated volunteers, donors, and staff members to thank for it!



*A glimpse into a home delivery food box*

**"IT DID MORE THAN HELP,  
IT LIFTED ME." - DIANNE**

*Client & Home Delivery Recipient*



*John, Home Delivery Volunteer*



*Jean, Home Delivery Volunteer*

# A NOTE FROM OUR CHIEF DEVELOPMENT OFFICER, LUCY MITCHELL

I grew up in a loving home in a small city in upstate NY. We didn't have a lot. My father worked in a factory during the day, then my mother and he cleaned office buildings in the evening to feed and clothe six children. We didn't have heat upstairs and during the winter months ice formed inside the windows. You could lie in bed and see your breath. Powdered milk was affordable and you thought you were in heaven when you visited a home with "real" milk. I never went hungry and always had a hand me down winter coat. My family had a safety net of people to help us through difficult times and to provide extras.



**Today, I am grateful to each and every one of you who step up to form a safety net for hungry people in**

**our community.** You make it possible for our neighbors in need to have nutritious meals in their own homes. From children raising money at lemonade stands to stimulus checks, donor advised funds, IRA distributions, foundations, corporate gifts, and more, you answered the call to feed people in need! As you read this newsletter, you will see your impact on hunger. From the bottom of my heart, thank you to each and every one of you.



## GROWING TO MEET THE NEED

Louise McCrorie joined the Loaves & Fishes team this year as our first ever Social Services Coordinator. She works closely with clients, making referrals and helping to connect them with other agencies -- a new resource we are able to provide for our neighbors in need. *"We got a call from a young person who had moved to Charlotte in April with her 3 young children, and was diagnosed with cancer in June," shares Louise. "She has a sister, but she cannot help this person much as she is caring for their elderly mother who has a terminal illness. We got her connected to CMS for the meal program, legal resources to assist with her disability claim, and information about help with utilities and her mortgage and how the process works."*

## LADELL'S LASTING LEGACY

*LaDell "Dell" Dixon named Loaves & Fishes' as a beneficiary of her IRA.*

"Mom volunteered with Loaves & Fishes for years, serving on the board as the Charlotte Has Heart Food Drive chairwoman, and in the referral phone center," Dell's son Chuck tells us. "She truly valued the Loaves & Fishes' mission, involving all of us in collecting food at one time or another. She believed that everyone was entitled to nutritious food regardless of their circumstances. **During this pandemic more than ever, Loaves & Fishes serves an important role in the community and Mom would be pleased knowing her legacy gift continues to help so many in need.**" Dell is survived by Chuck and Kaysi Dixon & Christie and John Ganshert.

If you want to learn how to leave a legacy to Loaves & Fishes, visit [www.loavesandfishes.org/legacy](http://www.loavesandfishes.org/legacy) or call Lucy Mitchell at 704-523-4333.



*Dell Dixon Mar 22, 1947 - Oct 2, 2019*

# A HOME DELIVERY CHAMPION



“Very early on, Loaves & Fishes was able to be flexible and change to a new way of operating to serve the community,” Bob Young remembers. When COVID-19 began impacting our community, Bob stepped up to do what he could. Bob works for the United Way of Central Carolinas and when Mecklenburg Co. put together an emergency response team, Bob was appointed the deputy director of VOAD (Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster). He connected patients affected by COVID-19 with resources like Loaves & Fishes that could provide groceries while people were quarantined in their houses or were lacking resources due to job loss. Bob managed a fleet of volunteers to help with home deliveries. He recounted, “Our volunteers were blessed to be part of this process because they could tell it was a real need.” Not only did Bob refer over 2,500 clients since March 2020, but he delivered around 350 of those himself. Bob is a regular at our Loaves & Fishes Mobile Pantries, picking up food to deliver to clients and a hunger hero to all of us at Loaves & Fishes!

## A NEW PERSPECTIVE

After volunteering to deliver groceries to families for Loaves & Fishes, “...I realized that temporary job loss or illness can lead to hunger too. I learned that .... hunger hurts no matter how big your house is. So thank you for letting me participate and learn about different types of need in our community.”

- Chris, Home Delivery Volunteer

## TOTAL SERVED SINCE JAN 2020

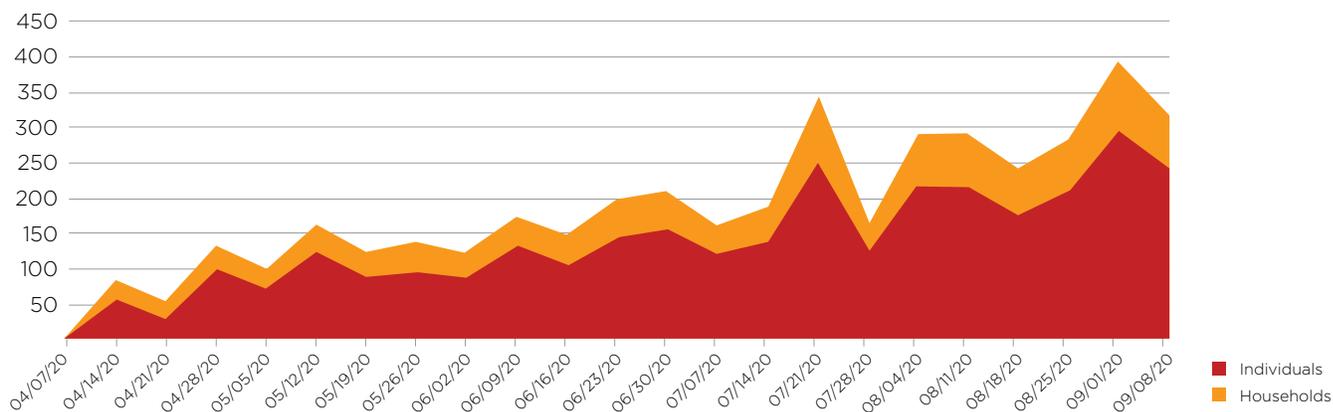


**27,798 HOUSEHOLDS**



**80,449 INDIVIDUALS**

## WEEKLY HOME DELIVERY NUMBERS





**LOAVES & FISHES**  
Groceries for Neighbors in Need

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

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

# THE FISHNET NEWSLETTER 2020



Lucas, 10 months old, smiles as his family leaves a Loaves & Fishes Mobile Pantry with enough groceries to feed their whole family for a week.

Every day, Loaves & Fishes mobile food pantries are out in our community ready to assist families like Lucas'. Your donation can provide struggling neighbors throughout Mecklenburg County with nutritious groceries and hope.

## 3 EASY WAYS YOU CAN HELP

### ENVELOPE

check or cash



### TEXT

text STOPHUNGER to 44321



### ONLINE

at [loavesandfishes.org](http://loavesandfishes.org)



DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT! ASK YOUR EMPLOYER IF THEY HAVE A MATCHING GIFT PROGRAM

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