



August  
2021

## HELLO TO NEW BEGINNINGS



### It's a busy Tuesday morning at the warehouse on Griffith Road.

On one side of the building, Volunteer Coordinator Martha Cochrane hands volunteer drivers their delivery route and an insulated bag filled with nutritious prepared meals.

On the other side of the building, the cars of more volunteers are loaded with boxes of groceries and fresh produce for delivery to homes of neighbors in need.

Inside the warehouse, yet more volunteers are busy sorting food donations, packing meals and bagging donations of fresh corn, tomatoes and zucchini.

Last but not least, Warehouse Assistant Brosnan Granger is pulling away in a truck filled with emergency food boxes for the first of the day's eight mobile pantries.

### And it's just 10:00am!

What started over two years ago as a shared vision for all people to meet their basic hunger needs by having access to nutritious food, has led to a new beginning for two longtime leaders in fighting food insecurity with the merger of Loaves & Fishes and Friendship Trays.

**“We believe that working together as one will improve overall access to nutritious food in a way that ensures kindness, dignity, and hope are also byproducts of our services.” - CEO Tina Postel**





For nearly five decades, Friendship Trays and Loaves & Fishes have worked collaboratively under independent missions to provide food to those in need in Mecklenburg County.

Now, we are finally together under one roof, sharing resources and streamlining efforts in order to feed more people, more nutritious food, in a more efficient way. By increasing access to fresh, healthy food, we will make sure that everyone's hunger needs are met in the way that they need it.

This is what it's all about. Meeting people where they are, feeding all the different faces and phases of hunger, no matter their situation, providing access to nutritious healthy food for everyone.

Stay tuned... this is just the beginning!



### SNAPSHOT OF ONE DAY AT LOAVES & FISHES/ FRIENDSHIP TRAYS

- » 36 staff members
- » 98 volunteers
- » 358 prepared meals delivered
- » 259 individuals received a week's worth of groceries



## OUR HISTORY

- » Beginning in 1975, Loaves & Fishes has provided a week's worth of nutritionally balanced groceries to individuals and families experiencing a short-term crisis, through a network of emergency food pantries in Mecklenburg County.
- » As the primary Meals on Wheels program for Charlotte-Mecklenburg, since 1976 Friendship Trays has delivered nutritious meals to elderly or infirm individuals unable to obtain or prepare their own meals.

### NOW TOGETHER:

Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays creates a more seamless and streamlined process of securing nutritious food and getting it to those who need it.

## WHAT YOU MAKE POSSIBLE - Groceries, Meals and Hope

“Recently my 22-year-old daughter had COVID and we had no way to get to her to help. A social worker connected her and you provided her with a week of groceries. She called to tell us what was in the box and how touched she was when she was feeling alone and scared. She is new to the Charlotte area and had to quarantine for days. Without a way to get groceries and with a very limited income, she was overwhelmed. We would like to thank you.”

“In 2016 you made my food and enabled me to get a decent diet while I was recovering. That lasted about four months.”

### 3 EASY WAYS YOU CAN HELP

#### DONATE FUNDS

Support the mission of Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays.



#### SHOP OUR AMAZON WISH LIST

Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays Amazon Wish List.



#### VOLUNTEER

Be a meal or grocery delivery driver or hold a food drive.



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