

BANK NOTES

A publication of the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank – Volume 3 – No. 2

Dear Friend,

As you may have heard, this has been one of the most challenging summers for your Food Bank in recent years. This has happened as we have seen a larger than expected increase in clients coming to our door for assistance and a larger than expected reduction in food available. On top of that, two of our trucks were vandalized.



This comes on the heels of the publication of data indicating that there is a “meal gap” of almost 21 million meals in our service area. The meal gap is the measurement of the number of meals that would be necessary to ensure that the food insecure in our area receive 3 meals a day after counting all of the Federal food assistance programs and the food we distributed that was equivalent to 9.5 million meals.



The media has stepped up to answer our call to raise awareness of our food situation as well as the vandalism. In response, several companies have come forward to host food drives and to find other ways to help. Three glass companies came forward offering to replace the vandalized windshields at no cost to your Food Bank. This is a great start, but we are still confronting a lagging food and fund supply.

September is Hunger Action Month when we strive to increase awareness of the issue of hunger and rally resources to fight the battle against hunger and food insecurity in our community. If you are a golfer or are interested in a sponsorship opportunity, the Slice of Life Golf Classic is coming up in October.

The community has begun to step up, but there is a lot more that needs to be done. Help us rally the community for us to come through this challenging summer and close out the year in a positive and successful manner to position us to face any new challenges that may be on the horizon.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL G. MANNING

President & CEO

Greater Baton Rouge
Food  Bank

MAP THE MEAL GAP: BY THE NUMBERS

- ▶ **11** Parish Service Area
- ▶ **20.7** Million Meals = Current Gap
- ▶ **15.1%** of the population struggles with hunger
- ▶ **126,750** people do not always know where they will find their next meal
- ▶ **38,440** are children
- ▶ **35%** of those children are not eligible for any Federal Nutrition programs

GET INVOLVED. TAKE ACTION.

Trevor's Wish

City Wide Food Drive
September 1st-7th

Hunger Action Month

September 1st-30th

Slice of Life

Golf Tournament

October 21st
Copper Mill Golf Course

Visit brfoodbank.org

Call 359-9940 (ext 220)
for more details.



CHECK OUT HUNGER

The 20th year of Check Out Hunger came to a very successful conclusion on July 8, 2013. Greater Baton Rouge area residents had the opportunity to make impulse purchases that would help to fight hunger in the communities we serve. In addition to in-store food donations, shoppers could also "Check Out Hunger" by adding a \$1, \$3 or \$5 donation to their grocery bill during the five-week campaign.

With 36 participating stores, Check Out Hunger raised over \$9,000. This is the largest amount collected in the history of the program and will provide over 45,000 meals to the greater Baton Rouge community. Special thanks to Neighbors Federal Credit Union, All Star Automotive Group, WAFB and WBXH for making this campaign possible.

GET SOCIAL: STAY CONNECTED

 LIKE US:

 FOLLOW US:

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twitter.com/brfoodbank

FOOD AND FUND DRIVES CONTINUE THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER

TEAM TURNER

In order to meet the demands of the challenging summer months head on, Turner Industries initiated a food drive competition between employees at different job sites. In just three weeks, Team Turner filled a 40-foot trailer with 16,596 pounds of food.



The Team Turner food donation came at a critical time too. Requests for food assistance typically spike during the summer months when children are no longer receiving free or reduced cost lunch through the National School Lunch Program.

"It's truly exciting to see our employees' generous response to the food drive," said Thomas Turner, President and Vice Chairman of Turner Industries. "At Turner Industries, we understand that our company is only as successful as the communities in which we live and work."



Since their food drive, the team at Turner Industries has continued to try to find new ways to support the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank including providing physical barrels for food collection. These donated barrels will go a long way in reducing the overall operational cost of replacement barrels for future food drives.

DIG RESTAURANT WEEK

DIG Magazine hosted its second installment of Restaurant Week Baton Rouge from July 15 to July 20, 2013. More than 44,000 diners enjoyed 3-course meals ranging from \$15 - \$35 per person at over 40 Baton Rouge eateries. This delicious event benefits the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, providing a total donation of \$10,000 for 2013.

Restaurant Week provides great opportunities for everyone involved. Customers can try new restaurants at an incredible price, restaurants can feature creative dishes that represent their style and flavor, and with the \$10,000 donation, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank can provide 50,000 meals to those in need.

"There was a great energy in the restaurant during Restaurant Week," said Emelie Alton, General Manager at Bistro Byronz. "We saw a lot of new faces and I think they will be a definite part of our repeat customer base."

Looking to DIG in? The next Restaurant Week will take place January 13-18, 2014.



INSIDE BACKPACK:

FEATURING MS. TARA WILMER

“It will bring you to tears some days to see how some of our kids struggle at school because they’ve missed meals and are hungry. The Backpack program helps put them on a better track and it just touches my heart to see how they respond.”

Ms. Tara Wilmer, a Paraprofessional at Glen Oaks Park Elementary School is one of many educators across several schools helping facilitate the Backpack program of the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. Backpack is an outreach donor-funded program designed to help fill the void for children who are at risk of missing meals over the weekend when they are not in school receiving free or reduced price lunches through the National School Lunch Program.

“Being able to send some of our kids home on Friday with a bag of food to get them through the weekend with the appropriate nourishment goes a long way on Monday when they arrive back to school more focused and ready to learn. You can tell when they’re hungry and it just breaks your heart. Focusing becomes very difficult, and that can be a big challenge for them all day here at school.”

Thanks to generous businesses and individuals, the Backpack program continues to fight hunger in our area schools. And that’s something Ms. Tara is very grateful for as she sends these kids home each week with a full bag.

“I see where the program is teaching kids about responsibility as well as giving to others. They have to remember which day they pick up and which day they need to bring the empty bags back for restocking. I also see where they are proud to be able to bring that home and share with their siblings. It gives them a sense of helping others. We are so grateful for this program and those who help sustain programs like this for the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.”



BACKPACK IS MADE POSSIBLE THROUGH THESE GRANT DONORS

2012-2013

Albemarle Foundation

Entergy Corporation

Walmart Foundation

ExxonMobil Foundation

Rotary Club of Baton Rouge Foundation

Every Kid A King Fund

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation

2013-2014

Winn-Dixie Foundation

ExxonMobil Foundation

Capital One Bank Mid City Community-Based Investment Project

Capital Area United Way

Walmart Foundation State Giving Program

Rotary Club of Baton Rouge Foundation

Every Kid A King Fund



◀ Baton Rouge High Beta Club sorted and packed food during the summer to make sure children in our community received the food they need.

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR FANTASTIC VOLUNTEERS

Air Force Flight Team	ExxonMobil Excite	Parkview Baptist Youth
Alpha Kappa Alpha	ExxonMobil Interns	Phi Phi Beta
Antioch United Methodist Church	Goodwood Blvd. Church	Raising Cane's Staff
Youth, Springfield, MO	Grace Covenant Community Church	The Red Shoes
The ARC of Baton Rouge	Greater New Guide Baptist Church	Redemptorist Students
Baton Rouge Bar Association	Istrouma Baptist Church	Sherwood Middle School
Baton Rouge City Court	Jetson Center for Youth	Sigma Phi Lambda
Baton Rouge General School of Radiology	Job Corp	St. Amant Interact Club
Baton Rouge High Beta	Junior League of Baton Rouge	St. George Beta Club
Bold and Beautiful Social Club	Kris Elmore Group	St. Joseph's Academy Students
Catholic High Students	La Insurance Network	St. Lukes Church
Church of the Highlands	Ladies in Pink Stellatoes	St. Martin Parish 4-H Junior Leaders Club
City Year of Baton Rouge	Lambi Tai Youth	St. Michael the Archangel Students
Designer Shoe Warehouse Staff	Little Prairie Baptist Church	The Friday Family Rosary Crusade
Diamond Divas	LSU Rotaract Club	University Baptist Church
DIG Magazine Staff	Matters of the Heart Social Club	Untouchable Diamond Divas
Episcopal High School Basketball Team	Mu Omega Delta Fraternity	Vivacious Ladies Social Club
Episcopal High Students	National Charity League	Youth Challenge
ExxonMobil	North Blvd. Youth Development	Youth Volunteer Corp

THE SLICE SPOTLIGHT



▲ The team at Christian Street Furniture helps Emily find the piece she's been looking for as part of their food drive promotion where 1 can = 1% off up to 20% per piece.



▲ Volunteers pack bags of fresh produce at the United Way Day of Action. Big thanks to Sam's Club employees for all their hard work.



▲ Baton Rouge High School's Caroline Campbell shows the food she collected as part of the Do Something: PB & Jam Slam.



▲ The Home Instead Salute to Senior Service State Award Winner Charles Bennett along with his wife Frances names the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank as the recipient of his \$500 award.



▲ Volunteers Calvin and Nell prepare to help out at the United Way Day of Action.



◀ ▲ The Food Bank staff clowns around with our new friend Dean for the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus elephant brunch benefit. Duchess and Patty enjoy their very own table of Louisiana vegetarian Po-boys.

HONORING YOUR PRECIOUS GIFTS OF TRIBUTE:

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Thank You from the
Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank and
the agencies we serve.

Greater Baton Rouge
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www.brfoodbank.org

Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank

5546 Choctaw Drive : P.O. Box 2996
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225.359.9940 : www.brfoodbank.org



In an effort to go green and reduce costs, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank encourages you to sign up for our e-newsletter and newsflashes. Visit www.brfoodbank.org to sign up and start receiving news in your inbox.

BUILDING IT UP: CANstruction® AT LASM AUGUST 28th- 29th

CANstruction® is back! The American Institute of Architects Baton Rouge, Louisiana Art and Science Museum and the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank have come together again to present CANstruction®! Members of the design, building and business communities will take part in a food-friendly challenge displayed for all to see!

Teams will compete by building structures on August 28th made entirely of canned food and other non-perishable items. At the conclusion of CANstruction®, all food will be donated to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

Judging and presentation of awards will take place on Thursday, August 29, 2013. For more details on this special event visit www.aiabr.com. CANstruction® structures will be on display at LASM through September 14, 2013, and is open to the public.

BREAKING IT DOWN: JOIN 2BROKE GUYS & LIVE BELOW THE LINE

Hunger Action Month is quickly approaching. This September, you can take action to truly understand the challenges of struggling with hunger. From September 23 – 27, 2BRokeGuys is partnering with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank and asking you to participate in the Live Below the Line challenge. This means spending only \$2.25 each day on food for five days.

Document your experience and share it on any of our social media pages. Calculate what you normally would spend on food for five days, subtract your daily \$2.25 and donate the remaining amount to the Food Bank. The better we understand hunger as a community, the more we can do to conquer it.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter for updates on Hunger Action Month and the 2BRokeGuys Live Below the Line challenge.

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