

BANK NOTES

A publication of the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank – Volume 6 – No. 2



The summer months are right around the corner. For many, it is a time for relaxation, travel, or just fun with family and friends. However, for children, families and seniors who rely on your Food Bank, it is a time of increased need. Children are not receiving the free or reduced school lunches and/or breakfasts from the School Nutrition Program while not in school. For many of those children, school meals were possibly their only meals of the day. Additionally, seniors living on a fixed income face increased utility bills while trying to stay cool, which decreases funds available for food or prescription medicines. The challenge increases for your Food Bank each summer.

As you would expect, your Food Bank has been very active in providing food assistance to families throughout our service area affected by the recent tornado in Assumption Parish, the March flooding in Livingston Parish, and the water issue in Donaldsonville. We will always faithfully respond to those in need in a time of crisis as best we are able. In so doing, we must work even harder to avoid a shortage of nonperishable food items for the summer, so we are able to assist those dealing with the disaster of hunger on a daily basis.

It is true that there is hunger all around the world, but it is important to realize that there are people in our own community dealing with the issue of hunger daily. The lack of food and the food needs of the homeless are pretty obvious to any observer, but many of those facing hunger may not be so obvious. Some of these may be the child sitting next to your child in school, the senior couple that goes to your church, or the person you see working multiple jobs to put food on the table for their family.

How can you make a difference? Well, there are many ways to take action and get involved. We rely on our community for the three things that help us work on our mission – the donation of funds, the donation of food, and the donation of people's time volunteering. Some current opportunities range from making a financial donation online or collecting food for Stamp Out Hunger to getting your company involved in sponsorship of the Slice of Life Golf Tournament or in a Redstock Summer Drive initiative. ***You can make a big difference in the fight against hunger right here at home.***

Join us as we step up our efforts to prepare for and to meet these increased summer needs. With your continued help, we can meet these increased demands and move through the summer with enough food to provide more meals for those who are food insecure. ***Together We're Fighting Hunger.***

Sincerely,
Michael G. Manning
President & CEO

WHAT'S INSIDE

Take a Swing at Hunger | Slice of Life Monday, May 2

Stamp Out Hunger set for Saturday, May 14

Sorting Captain recognized with Excellence Award

Empty Bowls 2016 a big success

Outreach Spotlight: Backpack Program

Redstock Summer Drive to begin June 1

DON'T FORGET TO SHARE THE FUN! TAG US IN YOUR PHOTOS

Use hashtags #BRfamily #BRfoodbank



LIKE US



FOLLOW US
@brfoodbank



PICTURE US
@brfoodbank



PIN WITH US



YOU CAN HELP

The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank BackPack Program is an outreach, donor-funded program. It is designed to help fill the void for low-income children who are at risk of missing meals over the weekend or during holidays when they are not in school receiving free or reduced price lunches through the National School Lunch Program.

Backpacks are filled with 10-12 child-friendly, nutritious food items and then distributed to at-risk children enrolled in the program in select elementary schools. The backpacks are discreetly sent home with children in pre-K through fifth grade on Friday and returned back to school empty on Monday morning.

While the program does receive some funding from individuals, the program is in large part made possible through grants and corporate donations. We are very grateful for the many companies who have stepped up over the years to support these children in our local area schools. There is still much work to be done.



Special thanks to the Winn Dixie Foundation for their recent donation of \$30,000 to fund the Backpack program.

WAYS TO SUPPORT THE PROGRAM

DONATE:

Consider making a financial gift to help support the program

VOLUNTEER:

Gather your coworkers to help pack bags at the Food Bank

To learn more about the program and how you can participate in these three easy ways, contact James McGowan at (225) 359-9940 ext. 206.

WATCH OUR OUTREACH PROGRAM VIDEO AT BRFOODBANK.ORG



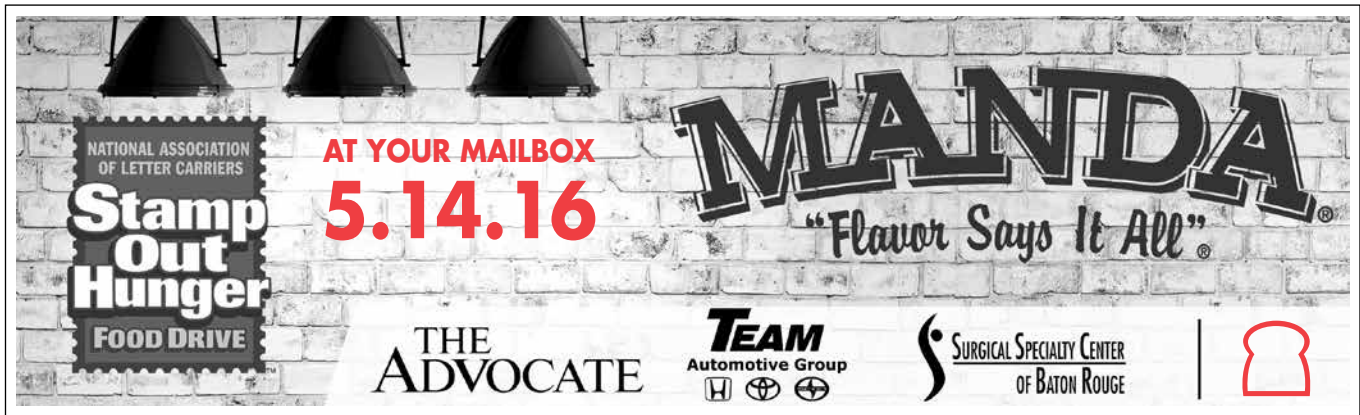
**MAY
2**

On May 2, 2016, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank will host the 24th Annual Slice of Life Classic at Greystone Country Club in Denham Springs, Louisiana. We are pleased to announce our new presenting sponsor, Sigma Engineers and Constructors, Inc. and are excited to also announce the move of the Golf Tournament from our traditional fall timeframe to the spring.

In years past, the Slice of Life Golf Classic has been a great success due to the generous support from all of our sponsors. Not only has this been an enjoyable event, but funds raised have contributed significantly to the Food Bank's effort to fight hunger in our 11-parish service area.

Danny Kais, CEO and President of Sigma Engineers and Constructors said, "We are all called to be responsible stewards and to help those that are less fortunate. The most important decision we must make is how we decide to answer that call."

Sign-up is available as a sponsor, team or individual. If you'd like to participate, visit us online at brfoodbank.org or contact Rachel Koch by email at communications@brfoodbank.org or by phone at (225) 359-9940 ext. 205.



**MAY
14**

Stamp out Hunger 2016 presented by Manda, The Advocate, Team Toyota, and Surgical Specialty Center, is coming on May 14, 2016. Postal employees will again demonstrate their generosity by supporting the National Association of Letter Carriers' (NALC) Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.

Participating in this year's Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is simple. Your letter carrier will deliver a specially marked brown paper bag to your mailbox before May 14. All you have to do is fill your bag with nonperishable food and leave it by your mailbox on Saturday, May 14 prior to mail delivery and your letter carrier will do the rest.

This food drive has significant impact as 1 in 5 children and 1 in 6 people face hunger in Louisiana. Additionally, thousands of seniors who live on fixed incomes are food insecure and are often too embarrassed to ask for help.

Over the course of its 23-year history, this national food drive has collected well over one billion pounds of food. Locally, we had our most successful food drive ever last year, collecting over 94,750 pounds of food thus enabling the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank to provide more than 78,950 meals to those in need. We look forward to sharing the results of this national food drive in our next newsletter.

FOOD BANK SORTING CAPTAIN HONORED WITH SPECIAL AWARD

Congratulations to our very own Mark Walker



Last month, Deputy Chief David Hamilton of Baton Rouge Police Department, presented our Sorting Captain, Mark Walker with a Challenge Coin. A Challenge Coin is carried by police or military and is usually presented by unit commanders in recognition of special achievement by someone. “Challenge Coins are given to challenge those in our community or professional arena to work toward the highest level of excellence in their field and to encourage others to strive beyond minimum standards,” said Deputy Chief Hamilton. “I presented Mark with a Baton Rouge Police Department Challenge Coin to recognize his energy and motivation for those of us who volunteer.”

This was Deputy Chief Hamilton’s first Challenge Coin given to a civilian. When Mark was presented with the award, Deputy Chief Hamilton remarked on Mark’s upbeat personality and his ability to get everyone moving. Each day, Mark strives to make the food sorting and volunteer experience enjoyable to all of those who come to volunteer.

Deputy Chief Hamilton volunteers regularly at the Food Bank during his work lunch break. While working as a police officer for many years, in areas of low income and high crime, he said that he saw firsthand those in need of food and they were some of the most disturbing images he can remember. He said, “No one should have to go without the basic necessity of food. The Food Bank gives me an opportunity to give back to those in need, even though it’s behind the scenes working in the warehouse. I believe it strengthens our community and builds relationships among the private, public and nonprofit sectors.” We are grateful for all of those who take time out of their schedules to give back by volunteering at the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. If you’re interested in joining the volunteer efforts, contact Hope at hope@brfoodbank.org.



WHAT OUR VOLUNTEERS SAY ABOUT YOUR FOOD BANK

“I volunteer at the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank because it provides an important service to the community. Far too many in our community go hungry.”

— **Aimée Miciotto**

“I chose this placement with Junior League because it is a great way to give back to the community and address a need in Baton Rouge. I have enjoyed working with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank and its great employees.”

— **Karen Corkern**

“I volunteer at the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank for a class but I chose it because the important mission they have and its relatedness to everybody. It is a good experience to see that you choose what you eat, but some people just want food to eat. To feel like you are helping people get their basic necessities.”

— **Hassan Alkhadrawi**

“I volunteer because I enjoy giving back to the community. Service is important to me because I am fortunate enough to live a blessed life, so I feel as though I should help those less fortunate in any way I can. Volunteering at the Food Bank has been an amazing opportunity and I enjoy seeing our hard work here pay off and benefit the community. Volunteering is one of those things that just bring joy and happiness to me and I think it’s important for everyone to donate some of their time to help out the local community.”

— **Shirley Morrow**

MARCH EMPTY BOWLS EVENT A HUGE SUCCESS FOR FOOD BANK



Hundreds gathered at Ingleside Methodist Church on March 19 to participate in the second annual Empty Bowls Baton Rouge. Empty Bowls is an international project created to fight hunger, raise awareness of the issue of hunger, and join artists and art organizations on a community level.

Those who attended Empty Bowls were able to select a beautifully hand crafted ceramic bowl from hundreds which were donated by local artists, Alligator Clay and LSU students. Attendees enjoyed live music, a silent auction and delicious food. Lynne Pisto, a member of the Empty Bowls Committee said she and her husband Jeff Pisto support Empty Bowls because of their “commitment to give back to the community while involving the arts.”

The funds generated at this year’s event will go toward providing more than 57,900 meals, which will be distributed in our 11-parish service area. This incredible effort would not have been possible without all those who participated whether by coming to the event or donating time, talent, or food.

We would especially like to thank Alligator Clay, LSU Ceramics, Louisiana Claymates, area merchants and the many local artists who helped create the beautiful bowls for this year’s event and donated items for the silent auction. We would like to thank Alligator Clay and the EBRP Library Bus for providing super fun activities for the kids. We are also very grateful for Ingleside Methodist Church for providing the facility for the event



as well as for our food and beverage donors in la Madeleine Country French Café, Doe’s Eat Place, Sage Dining, and Hanley Foods. Last and certainly not least, we want to recognize the Empty Bowls Committee: Lynne Pisto, Byron Townsend, Brian Doyle, Jeff Routier, Shannon Allen, and Gwen Harmon for their involvement to make the event happen.

AREA BUSINESSES ANSWERING THE CALL TO FEED THE HUNGRY



▶ The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank was recently presented a check for \$7,000 by Nicole Salomone, the owner-operator of the Siegen Lane and Airline Highway Chik-fil-A stores and the Al and Diane Kramer Foundation. Chick-Fil-A Baton Rouge made this gift possible by installing Change for Community boxes in its area stores.



▶ ExxonMobil’s second annual Donate at the Gate for the Food Bank was a tremendous success and garnered media attention from all three major broadcast news stations in Baton Rouge. This food and fund drive collected more than 71,000 meals! We are grateful for our incredible community and their willingness to help those facing hunger in our 11-parish service area.



▶ National Peanut Butter and Jelly Day was April 2. Local businesses and schools were “spreading the love” during our spring peanut butter and jelly food drive! Which Wich made a special trip to the Food Bank to donate fresh PB&J sandwiches, which were given to Pastor John and the local YMCA Homeless Outreach Program.



10600 S. Choctaw Drive
Baton Rouge, LA 70815-1826
225.359.9940 : www.brfoodbank.org

P.O. Box 45830
Baton Rouge, LA 70895-4830



United Way Member Agency



Member of Feeding America

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 newflashes. Visit www.brfoodbank.org to sign up and start receiving news in your inbox.

3RD ANNUAL REDSTOCK SUMMER DRIVE RETURNS



As Mike noted in his cover letter, we will soon be facing summer when the food bank is most challenged in meeting the increased demands of food insecurity affecting children, seniors and families living in poverty. With this increase in demand, distributing enough food to support over 115 agencies across 11 parishes will be a tall task.

This is precisely why the Redstock Summer Drive initiative was created. On June 1, the Redstock Campaign will begin its third year of addressing the issue. The goal is to help those facing hunger by inspiring the community to donate or host a food or fund drive

under the Redstock name. One marquee program of the Redstock Summer Drive is the WAFB Check Out Hunger program at participating area stores. The program provides an easy way for shoppers to donate at the register when purchasing groceries. Be on the lookout for Check Out Hunger placards in area stores soon.

The Redstock campaign runs from June 1 to August 31 and we'd love for you to get involved. Participating in Redstock is easy. Organize a food drive, fundraiser or volunteer project under the Redstock name. Fliers, grocery lists, and helpful tips are all available online at brfoodbank.org.