

BANK NOTES

A publication of the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank – Volume 6 – No. 3



FOOD BANK DEVASTATED BY AUGUST FLOODS CALL FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT CRITICAL

This news is difficult to share. Your Food Bank is an organization focused on serving others in need, especially in times of great crisis. It is in our inherent nature to step up and serve as first responders when a disaster strikes our community. Caring for people in need is what we do. As we watched the August floods unfold, hitting parish after parish in our service area, we stood by with teams ready to respond. What we would have never expected was that our own facility would fall victim to the rising waters before our teams could ever launch.

On Sunday, August 14th we discovered water levels had climbed to just over four feet throughout our 170,000 square foot facility - enough water to devastate all facets of our operation including damage to office and warehouse equipment, delivery vehicles, refrigeration and nearly 1 million pounds of food that would have gone to feed the hungry. The magnitude of this impact was breathtaking for sure, but more devastating for all of us was in knowing our community would be looking to us for help – and for the first time, we would be faced with an impossible situation.

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In Louisiana, it is not in our spirit to give up. Your Food Bank is no different. Our team embodies the spirit of Louisiana. We immediately started reaching out to Feeding America and our neighboring Food Banks to start lining up additional food resources. They responded. We reached out to the media to share our needs for temporary warehouse space and office space to be able to operate and start serving people as soon as possible. They responded. We put out a call for volunteers to help us clean, repair and get back up on our feet. Once again, our community responded – they always do.

While we have received an overwhelming amount of support thus far, there is still much to be done. We are making tremendous progress each and every day, but the nature of a disaster such as this one generally comes with a heavy burden. We are currently operating out of a temporary warehouse space and are already back on the road distributing food to agencies and neighborhoods in need. As we head into September and Hunger Action Month, we could certainly use your financial support as we rebuild our operation to respond to these individuals, families, children and seniors who are still in need from the flooding in our 11-parish area. Can we count on your response? We trust we can.



WE REMEMBER

TREVOR'S WISH

to feed the hungry

WE HONOR TREVOR'S WISH IN SEPTEMBER

HOW IT BEGAN:

When he was just 5 years old, Trevor Sims was diagnosed with cancer and at the young age of 10, he was told the cancer was terminal. Knowing that his time here was limited, Trevor made a wish that would impact and inspire an entire community. Trevor's Wish to feed the hungry has continued four years later. Having experienced hunger, Trevor didn't want anyone else to feel that way. On October 16, 2013, the Baton Rouge community lost an extraordinary and courageous young man, Trevor Sims. Although he is no longer with us, his legacy and wish continues to live on and encourage us all. Since its inception, Trevor's Wish has collected more than 61,750 pounds of food and over \$135,000 in monetary donations, providing food equivalent to 721,376 meals to those in need.

action and participate in Trevor's Wish. You can donate food items at any Baton Rouge area Raising Cane's locations, donate food or funds at Essential Federal Credit Union locations or donate directly to the Food Bank. Monetary donations can be made through the Food Bank's website, www.brfoodbank.org or by calling us at (225) 359-9940.



GET OTHERS INVOLVED AND FIGHT HUNGER TOGETHER

HOW YOU CAN HELP

For the fourth year, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank will honor Trevor Sims' legacy and wish during Hunger Action Month. Beginning on Thursday, September 1, 2016 and throughout all of September, we will continue to honor Trevor's Wish to feed the hungry. There are a few easy ways to take

One way you can make a big difference is by hosting your own Trevor's Wish food drive or fundraiser. Trevor used to say, "Everyone can do something." You can truly make a difference by inviting your friends, co-workers, teammates or church groups to participate. All food and funds collected from Trevor's Wish will directly fight hunger through the Food Bank and our partner agencies.



10/31 HALLOWEEN PARADE SET FOR OCTOBER 29

**OCT
29**

The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank will again participate in the 10/31 Consortium's Baton Rouge Halloween Parade. The theme for this year's parade is "Candy Wishes and Halloween Dreams." The parade will take place on October 29, 2016 and will be held in Downtown Baton Rouge. You can participate by bringing nonperishable food items to the parade to donate to the Food Bank or to any of 10/31 Consortium's events throughout the year. For more information, visit 1031consortium.com.

HUNGER WALK SET FOR NOVEMBER 6

**NOV
6**

In our 11-parish service area, nearly 16% of the population is food insecure. This means thousands of individuals are unsure from where their next meal will come or whether it will come at all. The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank and the Interfaith Federation Holy Grill will again partner on November 6, 2016 for the Community Hunger Walk, sponsored by Syngenta, to help fight hunger in our area. Each year, members of the community who participate in the Hunger Walk help to collect funds and food to fulfill our mission. Keep an eye on the Food Bank's website for more information in the upcoming month!



SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH WE NEED YOUR HELP

For nearly a decade, September has been recognized as Hunger Action Month, Feeding America's nationwide initiative designed to encourage the public to take action on the issue of hunger. Across the country, approximately 50 million Americans fight hunger on a daily basis. To understand this, consider the feeling of an empty stomach, and how on an empty stomach, we cannot be our best selves.

Hunger Action Month is an opportunity to educate people about the importance of food banks and the difference they are making across the country. The purpose of Hunger Action Month is also to raise awareness of the need to dedicate more resources and attention to hunger issues.

In Louisiana, 17% of the population is food insecure. In our service area, 1 in 6 people and 1 in 5 children faces hunger. In 2015, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank distributed more than 8.7 million meals to people in our 11-parish service area. However, even with all of your Food Bank's efforts and all of the federal feeding programs, more than 24 million meals are still missing to ensure that those in our community have three meals each day.

As individuals, businesses, and government organizations, we all have a role to play in providing food to our neighbors in need. This September, consider getting involved in Trevor's Wish during Hunger Action Month by donating at area Raising Cane's and Essential Federal Credit Union locations. You can also donate directly to your Food Bank online at brfoodbank.org. With just one dollar we can provide food equivalent to 4 meals so even the smallest of donations can make an impact here locally. Join us in September because *Together We're Fighting Hunger*.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US THROUGH THIS DIFFICULT TIME

- Air BNB
- Alexander's Highland Market
- Amerigroup
- Arkel
- Baton Rouge Area Foundation
- Baton Rouge ENT
- Best Buy
- Capital Area United Way
- CC's Coffee House
- Cenikor
- Cisco
- Coburn Supply
- Corporate Brew & Draft
- Double K Originals
- Epicurean Society
- ExxonMobil
- Essential Federal Credit Union
- Entergy
- Faulk and Meek
- Flemings



- Fred's
- Gouter Restaurant
- Humana
- Kean Miller
- Lafourche Parish Public Library
- Louisiana Laser Dermatology
- Louisiana Longhorn Cafe
- Microsoft
- National VOAD
- NECHAMA
- New Orleans Center for Creative Arts

- NOLA Pay It Forward - Mayor Landrieu and Greater New Orleans Foundation
- Nola Roller Derby
- Nuance Solutions
- PCS Potash
- Peoples Health
- Press Street Station
- Resource Bank
- River Room
- Roberts Fresh Market
- Share Our Strength
- Shopper's Value
- Shop SFT
- Soiree
- Team Rubicon
- Terrebonne Parish Library
- Thomas Wimberly
- West Feliciana Sheriff's Office
- Williams Energy Co.

*List of support as of press time

FOOD BANK NOMINATED FOR FEEDING AMERICA INNOVATION AWARD

The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank is always looking for new ways to be able to feed more people. This innovative spirit has drawn the attention of Feeding America. The mission of the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank is to feed the hungry in Baton Rouge and surrounding parishes. One of the ways we have been able to reach more people is through our new bulk packaging machine. This dry packaging machine and weight pack scale system allows us to package bulk product into smaller, more distributable sized portions.



Ron Zappe, the owner of Zapp's Potato Chips, planned to donate one of his company's machines to the Food Bank for a repacking operation. Sadly, he passed away but his family strongly believed in honoring his commitment and generously helped to purchase the machine in his memory with added support from the Charles Lamar Foundation.

Through this machine, we are now able to package dry, bulk product like beans, rice, pasta, and cereal into consumer-friendly sizes. In the future, the Food Bank plans to reach out to local food entrepreneurs and allow them the opportunity to help us with repacking initiatives and possibly engage in entrepreneurial opportunities.

Another exciting aspect of the bulk packaging machine, is through it, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank has been nominated for the *Innovator of the Year Award* by Feeding America. This award recognizes food bank teams and the innovative work being done to help source and distribute food to the communities served at lower costs.



Bob Kanas, Chief Operations Officer of the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank commented, "This repack machine has the potential to make a significant difference for the 11-parishes we serve. Not only will we be able to serve more people through the distribution of consumer-sized product, but we will also be able to receive funds to continue to fulfill our mission. All of this is possible because generous individuals and families recognized the need, had a vision, and saw it through." The Food Bank team is currently assessing damages to this machine from the flood.

FOOD BANK RECEIVES FOUR STAR RATING FROM CHARITY NAVIGATOR

On June 1, 2016, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank was recognized as a 4-Star Charity from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. This 4-Star rating is the highest rating from Charity Navigator and should provide donors with confidence for every dollar generously given to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. To learn more about Charity Navigator and how the 4-star ratings are calculated, visit www.charitynavigator.org.





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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.

STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE BIGGEST YEAR ON RECORD

On May 14, 2016, the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank had a record breaking year, collecting more than 120,000 pounds of food during the 24th Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Each year the National Letter Carriers Association and the United States Postal Service organize a nationwide food drive to help fight hunger in local communities.

The generous food donations from members of the community and the USPS and NALC's dedication to collecting donations resulted in enough food to prepare more than 100,000 meals.

Summer is the most challenging time of year for those facing hunger. Many people are busy planning family vacations and enjoying summer activities so consequently, donations are slim and the shelves at the Food Bank become empty. Stamp Out Hunger came at a critical time for the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank by providing food for the upcoming months. A huge thank you to all those who participated in Stamp Out Hunger 2016!



SLICE OF LIFE GOLF CLASSIC PRESENTED BY SIGMA ENGINEERS A BIG SUCCESS

The 24th Annual Slice of Life Golf Classic took place this past May. The tournament, presented by Sigma Engineers and Constructors, Inc., was a major success and raised more than \$29,000. We are grateful for all of the sponsors, donors, players and volunteers who participated to make this year's tournament a success and we look forward to doing it again in the spring of 2017!

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil right regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in our administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Services at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) Email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.