

PRIORITY NEEDS: CANNED MEATS SOUP CANNED FRUIT PEANUT BUTTER 100% FRUIT JUICES



LOAVES & FISHES

Groceries for Neighbors in Need

P.O. Box 11234
Charlotte, NC 28220

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Vanguard All Cans on Deck



Each year Vanguard holds their **All Cans on Deck** food drive to benefit Loaves & Fishes. This year they added a canned food golf course (above). Overall, Vanguard employees collected enough funds and items to supply Loaves & Fishes with 67,551 of our priority needs items!

Trying to Turn His Life Around



A few years ago, Terry Bailey decided to turn his life around. He started attending a local church and was baptized there. Things were going well for Terry, his wife and two children, now 5 and 3 years old. When the economy

took a downturn, however, Terry and his family felt its effects severely. Terry cannot find steady work and does odd jobs when he can find them. With another baby on the way, he finally turned to Loaves & Fishes for help. At the pantry at First Presbyterian Church, Terry received a week's supply of groceries for his family. Despite his misfortunes, Terry said he's "Tryin' not to stress, and let God handle it". He is grateful for Loaves & Fishes and says, "The good Lord brought me here".



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THE FISHNET

Believing that all people in our community should be able to meet their basic hunger needs and that we are called to share our resources, Loaves & Fishes' mission is to provide groceries and support to people in crisis.

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Loaves & Fishes' Clients: Who Are They?

Statistics are a big part of Loaves & Fishes – a necessity in fact, if we are to continue provide nutritious food to the people who turn to us for help. We know, for example that we've fed (52,145 – update on last day before printing) people so far in 2009. 35% of our clients are children, and the average size of our client families is 2.95. Statistics can give an overall picture, but each person who visits a Loaves & Fishes pantry has a story to tell. Here are a few of them.

1. Julie and her husband moved from West Virginia two years ago. They were doing well until hard economic times hit last September. Since Julie is in school for two more years and her husband's job is based on commissions, their income level dropped drastically. To make it worse, they're making payments on a new truck purchased last summer, not knowing that hard times were ahead. With support from their church community and Loaves & Fishes, they are managing to make ends meet.

2. Hospice patients receive food from Loaves & Fishes, a little known fact. Marguerite Crescitelli is a social worker from Hospice & Palliative Care who picks up groceries from Loaves & Fishes for different patients 5 – 6 times per year. She recently wrote a letter, thanking us for the groceries and the kindness provided – support that is very much needed and appreciated.

3. Vanessa has a serious eye disease, causing increasing blindness in both eyes. She needs corneal transplants that will cost \$15,000 per eye. Vanessa moved here from El Salvador with her family and because of her eye condition, she has had to stop

driving, and thus cannot work anymore. Although her English is not perfect, Vanessa wrote to us, saying that she believes her prayers will be answered, asked us to pray for her former boss who has cancer, and above all, expressed her deepest thanks.

4. Bobbie is a single woman whose job was recently cut back. Her income fell from \$2400/month to only \$600/month. With that drastic reduction, she can no longer pay all of her bills. As a reference to her plight, the NC Department of Agriculture just published the 2009-10 eligibility requirements. According to their guidelines, a single person with an income of \$1174/month is

eligible to receive USDA food. Bobbie now earns half that amount.



These are only a few of the profiles of a Loaves & Fishes' clients. There are no typical cases – each person or family is unique, with a special story. We are grateful that we can lend a helping hand to each one of them.

S U M M E R 2 0 0 9

From the Director

I had the pleasure of joining a gathering of more than 200 people at Little Rock A.M.E. Zion Church on June 30 for "Community Conversation – Can we Talk to Each Other in Difficult Economic Times?" Two of the panelists made extremely salient points; Carol Hardison, from Crisis Assistance Ministry, shared the fact that four successful long range plans for the arts in Charlotte have been implemented recently, but none for human services. County Commissioner Dan Murrey was in attendance, and promised that the County Commission would address that issue.

And former Charlotte Mayor Harvey Gantt, said "The basic DNA of Charlotte itself shows we really do

come together in times of crisis." He remembered three key components of the successful integration of Charlotte's public schools back in the 70's: 1) good leadership, 2) strong grass-roots participation, and 3) a generous community.

I am convinced that we still have those ingredients present in our DNA. And I am privileged to see the full spectrum of response to difficult economic times: from thanking three young siblings for donating the \$25 proceeds from their lemonade stand to Loaves & Fishes, to thanking the local CROP Hunger Walk Organizing Team for the \$24,964.06 raised at last October's CROP Hunger Walk, to dropping in on one of

our 18 pantries to see individuals and families leave with a week's supply of nutritious groceries and smiles of relief on their faces.

Indeed we have assisted 27% more people in 2009 than during the same time period last year. Times are difficult, but Charlotteans are also generous and caring. And a crisis can tell us what our basic DNA is. To quote from Willie Ratchford the other evening, "We can do more together than we can alone."



Loaves & Fishes, Inc.

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Beverly Howard, Executive Director

 Find us on Facebook


Feed the Need



In 2008, Loaves & Fishes Fed 84,045 people
Will You Help Us Feed One More?

Join us Saturday, October 3 from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. for Loaves & Fishes' annual Feed the Need. Sold out for the last two years, the event will feature delicious food by Coach's Low Country Brands, music and dancing with the Carolina Gator Gumbo Band, a Live Auction and more!

To register go to <http://www.loavesandfishes.org/feedtheneed.htm>.



Saying Goodbye to an Old Friend

In 2000, the Philip Morris Employee Community Fund was established as "a workplace-giving program supported by contributions from employees of Philip Morris in Concord". The fund's purpose was to support charitable organizations in North Carolina, but also to directly involve Philip Morris employees in the decision-making process of awarding grants. Although Philip Morris' corporate name changed to Altria in 2003, the workplace-giving program has continued to be managed and supported by its employees.

Since its inception, the PMECF has donated a remarkable \$245,000 to Loaves & Fishes. These gener-

ous grants have allowed us to purchase much needed items such as a refrigerated delivery truck, a new forklift and shelving units for an expanded warehouse, start-up money to open a new pantry and to hire another warehouse employee, funding to purchase gift cards for dairy products and finally, in 2009, a grant of \$20,000 to purchase perishable foods in order to keep up with the unprecedented increase in demand that we've experienced.

Each year representatives from the benefitting agencies are invited to a check presentation ceremony and reception. This year's was very bittersweet, according to Loaves & Fishes' director Beverly How-

ard. "Employees had just learned that day that their plant would be closing at the end of July", she said. Although Altria employees had been given plenty of notice and support relating to the plant closing, the announcement was difficult to hear. "This marks the end of a generous and effective partnership where both employees and agencies benefitted", said Howard.

Indeed, we wish the employees of Altria much success as they make the transition into different jobs and a new chapter in their lives. Goodbye and thank you, old friends.

By the Numbers

People Loaves & Fishes fed June 2009	8173
People Loaves & Fishes fed June 2008	6259
Increase in demand between June 2008 and June 2009	31%
Pounds of food collected during National Association of Letter Carriers food drive	76,690



Summer Intern

Loaves & Fishes welcomes Willie Shain, our new Stapleton/Davidson summer intern. Willie is a rising senior at Davidson College, where he is a classics major. Willie grew up in Chattanooga, TN but after he started college, his family moved to St. Thomas, VI where he thoroughly enjoys visiting during vacations!

As an intern, Willie divides his time between Loaves & Fishes and Nexus Church. At Loaves & Fishes, he has been writing grant proposals, working at the First Presbyterian pantry, answering the telephone, and generally learning the workings of a non-profit organization.



When he's not studying at Davidson, Willie is actively involved in Reformed University Fellowship and has been elected president of Eta Sigma Phi, the classics honor society. Willie is contemplating going to seminary after graduating from college next year.