



LOAVES & FISHES

Groceries for Neighbors in Need

P.O. Box 11234
Charlotte, NC 28220

Return Service Requested



Non-Profit
Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit #2492
Charlotte, NC



Pictured above are Loaves & Fishes' Pantry Coordinators, a high energy group of volunteers who keep the pantries running. This group does everything from coordinating volunteers, ordering groceries from the warehouse and stocking shelves to working with clients and donors.

Did You Know...

- **2010 is Loaves & Fishes' 35th anniversary!** Established in 1975 as a single pantry at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, Loaves & Fishes has grown to a network of 17 pantries and served 102,638 people in 2009.
- It's **Feinstein Foundation** time again! \$1 million will be proportionately divided between participating hunger agencies nationwide, according to the total donations (cash, check and food items) received between March 1 and April 30, 2010. This is the 13th annual Feinstein Foundation Giveaway to Fight Hunger.
- Dig into your pockets for an extra dollar (or two)! On Sunday, February 7, 2010 a special offering will be collected by participating congregations for **Souper Bowl of Caring**. Check to see if Loaves & Fishes is designated to benefit from your house of worship!



LOAVES & FISHES

Groceries for Neighbors in Need

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.

Amazing Grace

During the first week of January, the staff at Loaves & Fishes waited and wondered. What would the final number be? 102,638, it turns out. **Loaves & Fishes served 102,638 people last year.**

It's no surprise, with an 11% unemployment rate in Mecklenburg County, and national economic predictions still looking grim. As the community dealt with the unprecedented need for food and shelter in 2009, the prospects of 2010 loomed on the horizon. **So it's no wonder that Loaves & Fishes experienced a 46% increase over two years in client demand as the final numbers ushered in the new year.**

While statistics are necessary and useful in setting goals and monitoring daily operations, it is face-to-

face interactions with people that really tell Loaves & Fishes' story.

- A man called the office to inquire how to get food, and spent a few minutes sharing how he was part of the "sandwich generation", caring for both his 82-year old mother and his 5-year old son.
- A young boy helped his mother carry two bags of groceries from the pantry at Eastern Hills Baptist and took delight in the gift of two mini-boxes of Honey Nut Cheerios, handed to him as an "extra".
- On New Year's Eve a resourceful security guard at the First Presbyterian pantry opened the doors for people who'd arrived early, and were waiting outside in the cold. Because it was too

early for the volunteers' shift to start, Mr. Williams started bagging groceries himself, even remembering to add collards and black-eyed peas for everyone's New Year's Day traditional dinner!

- Finally, a story that's been told many times at Loaves & Fishes – a young woman who stopped at the pantry door at Calvary United Methodist after receiving a week's worth of groceries. So overwhelmed by the generous amount of food, she put her bags down and told the volunteers she'd like to repay the favor. With that, in a glorious voice, she started to sing "Amazing Grace". There wasn't a dry eye in the house.

While statistics are useful, it's people that reflect grace.

Scouting for Food kicks off February Food Drive

Come drop off food at one of several locations for Loaves & Fishes Annual February Food Drive. The food drive runs from February 6 - 14. **Mecklenburg County Boy Scouts** kick things off on Saturday, February 6 with the annual Scouting for Food. Last year area Scouts brought in 138,000 pounds of food in one day! Turn to page 3 for drop-off locations.



“How Precious Did That Grace Appear...”

As 2009 came to an end, budget woes started. With the grace of our generous community, Loaves & Fishes had ample funding and resources to feed 15,000 more people than it had in the previous year. But how would we manage this year? Numbers were still increasing, and we suspected we'd reach “the 100,000” mark in people served this year. All of a sudden on December 18, Executive Director Beverly Howard was summoned to a press conference at **Foundation for the**

Carolinas, where Loaves & Fishes was given \$100,000 from the 2010 Critical Need Response Fund, with an additional \$50,000 added by **Sandra and Leon Levine. The Leon Levine Foundation** contributed the first \$1 million to this year's Critical Need Response Fund, administered by Foundation for the Carolinas, with hope that the community will match funds for local agencies who directly feed, clothe and shelter those in need. Sandra Levine said at the press conference,

“You guys are on the front lines... We thank you for your compassion.” Crisis Assistance Ministry and the Men's Shelter of Charlotte received equal gifts from the Critical Need Response Fund and the Leon Levine's Foundation.. Yes, indeed – grace abounds! By the time the check was prepared, the community had already begun to respond, adding an additional \$60,000 to Loaves & Fishes from Nucor and Balfour Beatty/RT Dooley.

Loaves & Fishes, Inc.

P.O. Box 11234 Charlotte, NC 28220

Phone: 704-523-4333 Fax: 704-523-5901 www.loavesandfishes.org

Beverly Howard, Executive Director



We've Got Billboards!



If you've driven around town during the past couple of months, you may have noticed billboards displaying Loaves & Fishes logo and a plea for support. Adams Outdoor Advertising designed the billboards which were displayed in four locations through January. For the remainder of 2010, Adams will display our billboard where space is available throughout Mecklenburg County.

Loaves & Fishes February Food Drive 3 Ways to Help!

1. Scouting For Food

The Boy Scouts of America will drop-off Harris Teeter paper bags throughout the community. Just fill the bag with non-perishable foods and leave outside your home for pick-up on February 6, 2010.

2. Drop-off At These Locations (You may also leave food in bins under the trucks.)

Saturday and Sunday, February 6 & 7 and February 13 & 14:

- Arboretum Shopping Center
- Davidson United Methodist Church
- Huntersville United Methodist Church (February 7 only)
- Mulberry Presbyterian Church
- Sharon United Methodist Church
- St. Mark's Catholic Church
- Town Center Plaza
- Trinity Presbyterian Church



3. Visit Harris Teeter

February 7 through February 15

Barrels will be available for drop-off at all area Harris Teeter Stores.

Loaves & Fishes Thanks...



WFNZ “The Fan” Sports Radio for sponsoring the 7th annual **Street Turkeys**, resulting in a total of \$17,525 divided between Loaves & Fishes and Second Harvest Food Bank, plus hundreds of turkeys and tons of canned food that were distributed during the holidays.



Harris Teeter for donating \$21,000 in grocery gift cards in addition to the food donated via the collection barrels during November's Harvest Feast.

Public and private **schools** in **Mecklenburg County** who participated in November's Thanksgiving Food Drive – their efforts yielded 105,500 pounds of food, and stocked warehouse and pantry shelves throughout the holidays.

103.7 WSOC and **Coyote Joe's** for designating Loaves & Fishes the beneficiary of the **Stout Guitar Pull**, held at Coyote Joe's on January 12.