

SHARING THE HARVEST



Serving Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Washington, and Unicoi Counties

The Second Harvest Food for Kids Backpack and Summer Food programs have been so helpful for my family.

— Sara



Children Shouldn't Have to Worry About Having Enough to Eat

Feeding Children in Northeast Tennessee is a priority for Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee. We provide food monthly to about 12,000 children regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability through partner distributions and our Food For Kids Backpack and Summer Feeding Programs as well as Mobile Food Pantries.

"The Food for Kids Backpack and Summer Food programs have been so helpful for my family," Sara told us, "It's hard with my budget," she said, "We lost hours at work and are trying to keep up with bills. Times are hard, but we keep on trying. Thanks for everything!"

The Food For Kids Program provides food on weekends and over school breaks. "When kids have good food, they have energy and focus... to learn and grow," one teacher told us. Over 60% of children in NE TN qualify for the National School Breakfast and the National School Lunch Programs and depend on school meals. The FFK program is an additional source of vital food.



Emily, a mother of four shared, *... We are so grateful for the food. The backpack program helped introduce ... new foods that are good for them.*

The Summer Feeding Program provides meals for 10 weeks at summer sites. It grew from one site serving about 55 children per weekday in 2009 to 650 children per weekday in 2022 at 22 locations. Executive Director Rhonda Chafin shared, "Your support helps ensure children and families are free of this worry and stress. Thank you."

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A Message From Our Executive Director

Looking back on 30 years at Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee

After 30 years as Executive Director of Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee, my daily responsibilities include managing the resources required to feed thousands of hungry people in an eight-county area. Despite obvious challenges, it is a career I enjoy and a mission I believe in more than ever.

Feeding others and sharing food has been a passion for me throughout my life. Long before my time at Second Harvest, I grew up in a farming family. I was brought up with the understanding that “You don’t throw away food especially when someone needs it.”

I clearly remember the first time I witnessed benevolence toward hunger, as a 7-year-old helping my grandparents at the Midway Market in Northeast Tennessee. Sometimes people would come in to buy food and would not have enough to pay the bill. My grandfather and grandmother would make sure they had food anyway. That made a big impression on me and years later I thought of that experience often. When first introduced to food banking, I contacted Feeding America Southwest VA to donate food from the company I represented. I knew right away I wanted to be part of that solution.

I’m always open to opportunities to expand the help the Food Bank can give. I’m especially interested in and motivated to help with the challenges of rural hunger and feeding children. I have a job that helps a lot of people and makes a difference. It’s a blessing. I work with great people and have made many great friendships — I’ve had for many years — making a difference for people throughout the region.

Celebrating my 30th year at Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee is still exciting work, knowing that you’re making a difference. It’s not about me, it’s this organization. I work with wonderful people and agencies — all passionate about the work.



Gratefully,

Rhonda P. Chafin



Executive Director

THIRTY YEARS OF SOLVING HUNGER IN NORTHEAST TENNESSEE

1990 - 1999

- In 1993 Rhonda Chafin is hired as Executive Director.
- SHFBNT is certified by Feeding America (America’s Second Harvest)
- Distribution grows to over 1.5 million pounds food by 1995 to 2.5 M pounds food by year 2000.
- New 25,000 sq. ft. warehouse is built, Gray, TN –20,000 people receive food assistance per month.

2000 - 2010

- Food distribution increases from 2.5 million to 7 million pound of food.
- Food Bank’s 20th anniversary in 2006
- Food Bank staff doubles in size - National food chains increase Food Bank support nationwide
- Network changes name to Feeding America
- SHFBNT adds Member of Feeding America to name
- 11,000 sq. ft. added to the gray warehouse - Direct Service Programs Mobile Food Pantry and Food for Kids added. 25,000 people receive food assistance per month - By end of 2010 80 lbs. food provided per person in poverty.

2010 - 2019

- Food Distribution goes from 7.7 million pounds of food to 10.7 million pounds and more nutritious food distributed
- Food Bank moves to ‘The old Sam’s Club’, Kingsport, TN, expanding warehouse space to 112,000 sq. ft.
- Avg. inventory reaches over 1.7 million pounds per month.- 40,000 people served monthly through 213 partners and food bank programs
- Food Bank achieves American Institute of Baking (AIB) standards
- Client Data Tracking added to measure clients’ needs, health, and other demographics
- SHFBNT adds Mobile Produce Pantry, Senior Grocery Pantry and Mobile Market to increase food access.
- Food is distributed to over 40,000 people per month.

2020 - 2021

- SHFBNT named one of the top four food banks in the Feeding America Network
- Record-high 16.6 million pounds food and groceries distributed to provide an estimated 13.8 million meals during the COVID-19 Pandemic
- SHFBNT handles the 125% increase in amount of food distributed monthly. Food for Kids program and school emergency food boxes served 5,000 students per month in 13 school districts.
- 95% of food pantries adjusted their food distribution methods and remained open during COVID-19 by adopting contactless drive-through distributions.
- Families in need receive 100 pounds of food per family per month
- As many as 50,000 people served monthly.
- SHFBNT hired temporary workers to help meet the increased demand and lack of volunteers.
- SHFBNT Becomes a STRONG ACC Community Partner to connect clients to services. Senior program expands to include home delivery.

2022 - 2023

- Food distribution stabilizes post-pandemic but is still higher than pre-pandemic and 13,369,324 pounds food are distributed.
- Average 45,000 people served per month
- Direct Service Programs account for 30% of food distribution.
- Plans for a building expansion begin.

Volunteer Spotlight

V.O. Dobbins, Jr. has been a volunteer leader in hunger relief ministry for over 30 years at Central Baptist Church, Kingsport, Tennessee – a Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee partner. V.O. and other church volunteers faithfully pick up food from the food bank and bring to Central's food pantry. Even while V.O. struggled with cancer and several rounds of chemotherapy a few years ago, it did not deter him. Church members drove him to the homebound to deliver food until he was well enough to help again in the church food pantry.

V.O.'s ability to lead, motivate, manage, and inspire others is evident. Genuinely interested in clients' well-being, he visits with them and learns when necessary non-food things like hygiene items for infants to the elderly are needed. He and others in the church then work to get the items donated.

When the Church's Food Pantry had two fires (2018 and 2020) and lost thousands of pounds of food supplies V.O. helped secure a storage facility and organized volunteers so the Church could continue providing food while he helped to restore

their food pantry to operation. During COVID, V.O. helped the food pantry organize a mobile food distribution model that continues today. Last year the pantry served an average of 350 individuals per month and provided hot meals to about 60 individuals per quarter.

V.O.'s father, V.O. Dobbins, Sr. (Douglass Elementary - High School Principal until the school closed in 1966) instilled in him the importance of helping the community. Each summer his father grew a large garden to help feed children and families in the community and V.O. grew up working in the garden. "Feeding people has been part of my life," said V.O. "I'm thankful for Second Harvest and the food they provide to help our food pantry serve people of Kingsport who need help with food."



Food Forecast On the Horizon *More Funds Needed to Purchase Food*

Food sourcing at Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee (SHFBNT) is very unpredictable due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the inflation currently affecting the food industry. Except during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic when large donations made it possible for SHFBNT to spend about \$3 million on food, SHFBNT's Food Purchase budget has typically been between \$1 to \$1.3 million annually.

Just prior to the pandemic, SHFBNT distributed 12.1 million pounds of food annually serving an average 43,000 people monthly. At the height of COVID-19, SHFBNT distributed 16.6 million pounds of food and served over 50,000 people per month. These numbers have now decreased but the need for food remains higher than pre-COVID. The food bank is serving about 45,000 now per month. More people are struggling and food is needed.

USDA commodities are shrinking and SHFBNT will need to purchase more to meet increased food demands.

The food bank doesn't see food or freight costs reducing anytime soon so SHFBNT needs more funding for food purchases in our next fiscal year (July '23-June '24).

An ongoing inventory of 2 to 2.1 million pounds of food is needed in the region. "Everyone has noticed the increase in the cost of food," said Tom Cromie, SHFBNT Operations Director, "We see it when purchasing food supplies and paying for freight. Potatoes used to cost \$5,500 to \$6,000 per load but is now \$8,000 to \$9,000 per load. Local food donations have also decreased so we purchase as much as possible when we see reasonable prices."

In an effort to meet food needs in the region the food bank is expanding its Volunteer Center to help maximize community resources to provide more food. The expansion will enable repackaging purchased bulk food into smaller packaging for distribution. Funding for food purchases and supporting this expansion are some of the ways your donations can make a difference.

Second Harvest Plans Major Building Expansion

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee's (SHFBNT) vision is a hunger-free Northeast Tennessee. A long-range strategy to achieve this vision is to make meaningful progress toward ending hunger. A key initiative of the food bank's long-range plan is to help meet the growing need for hunger relief in Northeast Tennessee. A vital phase in this plan is to expand the existing warehouse to increase the capacity of SHFBNT. Thanks to a generous grant from the Jim and Laura Rogers Foundation, the current Volunteer Center will be expanded internally to maximize efforts to distribute food by accommodating and managing the increasing number of volunteers and improving their volunteer experience.

The Jim and Laura Rogers Foundation Volunteer Center will also include an external expansion of

volunteer meeting space, restrooms, operations office space and additional space for future program expansion. SHFBNT is a volunteer-based organization, and volunteers are the lifeblood of the food bank. Since the food bank's founding in 1986, thousands of selfless individuals have volunteered their personal and professional time to help food-insecure neighbors in need by sorting and boxing food in the warehouse for distribution and by assisting in the office by greeting guests, answering phones, assisting with mailings, special events and much more.

If you want to learn more about this vital expansion and how you can help, please contact development@netfoodbank.org for more information. Together we WILL achieve a hunger-free Northeast Tennessee.

Second Harvest and The Food Bank System - How it Works

In its 37-year history, the Covid-19 pandemic is the largest-scale emergency food response that SHFBNT has experienced. The lockdowns and layoffs resulting from the pandemic caused widespread food insecurity that the Feeding America (FA) Network of Food Banks addressed. Many people who might have gone hungry did not because of this network.

The FA network served as a link to national food and monetary donors helping Second Harvest secure food from every possible source including government commodities. Food was distributed through SHFBNT's partner drive-through food pantries and our own mobile distributions providing over 16 million pounds of food for hunger relief to as many as 50,000 people each month in Northeast Tennessee.

Forbes named Feeding America as the top charity on its 2022 list of America's Top 100 Charities due to the importance of Food Banks in meeting the widespread need for food. "People saw something that they didn't understand before this—food insecurity," says Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, FA CEO.

Your donations to Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee were essential during COVID and the need for your support continues now in 2023.



Ending Hunger Takes Everyone

A special thank you to federal and state departments as well as food manufacturers, distributors and retailers who partnered with us during Calendar Year 2022 to end hunger by donating food and beverages as well as federal and state funds to help feed our neighbors in need. We could not accomplish our mission without this support!



Serving Carter, Greene, Hancock, Hawkins, Johnson, Sullivan, Washington, and Unicoi Counties

Government Sponsors



Second Harvest has a 4-star Charity Navigator rating.



Deluxe Basket Partner 250,000 Pounds and More

- FOOD CITY STORES #601, #603, #605, #606, #608, #622, #625, #629, #631, #640, #663, #664, #669, #670, #699
- FOOD LION CORPORATE AND STORES #218, #323, #1493, #1497
- PEPSI COLA
- PREMIUM WATERS
- PUBLIX CORPORATE AND STORES #1543, #1633
- WALMART DISTRIBUTION CENTER, MARKET #5734 AND STORES #599, #620, #680, #690, #742, #1080, #3234, #3829, #3852

Produce Basket Partner 100,000 - 249,999 Pounds

- KROGER STORES #261, #328, #367
- PERFORMANCE FOODS
- SAM'S CLUB STORE #8222

Fruit Basket Partner 50,000 - 99,999 Pounds

- ALDI STORES #66, #67, #69
- LECLERC FOODS

Bread Basket Partner 25,000 - 49,999 Pounds

- DOLLAR GENERAL STORES #446, #1439, #3394, #3776, #6804, #8466, #11187, #12003, #14751, #18582, #20203, #21074, #21724, #23163
- TARGET STORES #T0756, #T2332
- THE FRESH MARKET

Basket Partner 1,000 - 24,999 Pounds

- BARGAIN HUNT
- BIG LOTS JOHNSON CITY
- CHEDDAR'S SCRATCH KITCHEN JOHNSON CITY, KINGSPORT
- CHICK-FIL-A MARKET STREET-JOHNSON CITY, KINGSPORT
- COCA COLA REFRESHMENTS
- EARTH FARE
- FRITO LAY
- INGLES MARKET STORE #72
- JONES & CHURCH FARMS
- KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN LYNN GARDEN DR-KINGSPORT
- LONGHORN STEAKHOUSE KINGSPORT
- OLIVE GARDEN JOHNSON CITY, KINGSPORT
- PANERA BREAD RESTAURANTS #203833, #203836
- SCOTT'S FARMS

For more information on how agencies and businesses can help provide food to feed hungry children, families, seniors and veterans please call 423-279-0430 or email info@netfoodbank.org.

Hope Served for the Holidays

Community partners make a tremendous difference for neighbors who struggle to make the holiday season special. Thanks to the generosity of partners as well as the community at large Second Harvest continued to serve nourishing food during the 2022 holidays. At a time that can often be lonely and discouraging – hungry neighbors in our region learned they are not forgotten and that someone does care.

Project Thanksgiving Goal Met

2022 marked the 14th consecutive year 88.3 WCQR Radio and Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee partnered to provide Thanksgiving meals to neighbors in need. WCQR led the way with its annual day long radiothon on November 3rd to spread awareness and raise funds. Thanks to the radio station, Second Harvest volunteers and partners



who helped package and distribute the food as well as caring community members throughout the food bank's eight county service region who donated funds this year's goal was met and 6,200 Thanksgiving meals boxes were provided to neighbors in need this past Thanksgiving. Project Thanksgiving is a much beloved event each year and it is a success because of the generosity of WCQR, Partners, Volunteers and Donors. Thank you all!

Food for the Holidays

For the second year in a row United Healthcare Community Plan of Tennessee served hope during the holidays by sponsoring 7,680 five-pound bags of chicken and 2,500 nine-pound meal boxes with all the fixings for happy holiday meals that were distributed through Second Harvest's Mobile Food Pantries during the Christmas and New Year holidays. Thank you United Healthcare!



Together Solving Hunger - Special Ways You Can Help

Celebrate Someone You Love: Celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special event? Need an extra gift under the tree? Consider a gift to the food bank dedicated to your loved one on special occasions!

Honor Someone You Remember: Make a gift in memory of someone and we will send an acknowledgment to their family upon request.

Leave A Legacy that Lasts: Consider joining the Perennial Society of Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee by including the food bank in your will or other estate plans.

Double Your Impact as Employer and Employee: Are you part of a company that matches employee donations? Double your impact to help solve hunger when employee donations are matched by employers!

For more information on any of the above opportunities please email development@netfoodbank.org.



UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2023

Hunger Action Month

For more information and for action ideas please go to www.netfoodbank.org or check out **#HungerActionMonth**.

September 17, 2023

The Farmer & The Chef

For sponsorship opportunities and more event information contact specialevents@netfoodbank.org.



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Second Harvest Food Bank of Northeast Tennessee

1020 Jericho Dr.
Kingsport, TN 37663
(423) 279-0430

www.netfoodbank.org

Connect to the work you support!



Mission Statement

Our mission is to feed the hungry in Northeast Tennessee by securing and distributing food and engaging our community in the fight to end hunger through regional partnerships, programs, and education.