

Feeding Hope

a newsletter for food industry donors

DONATING FOOD HELPS FAMILIES, IMPROVES COMMUNITY

The donations from individuals and businesses are much more than gifts; they are investments in the welfare and future of our community. As good stewards of these investments, we work to safely get food to those individuals and families in our community who are in need. The following is just one story of how donated food helped a family who has been struggling through one crisis after another.

Three years ago, Ker'Vonn and Anita Stezler's oldest daughter Ker'Vetta was severely burned and required extended treatments at a burn center in Tampa. Mother and daughter spent months traveling to Tampa which put an emotional and financial strain on the entire family. Then, Anita was diagnosed with Lupus a year ago and was forced to quit working, and as the recession worsened last year in October, Ker'Vonn lost his job of 14 years as a cabinet maker.

In the midst of these challenges, the family was forced to seek assistance from the Bridge, one of our member agencies. There, this family received the short-term emergency food assistance it needed. Anita tells their story with



The Stezler family endured some difficult circumstances over the last three years, but was able to receive help from Second Harvest Food Bank.

a mixture of stoicism and optimism. "It has just been one thing after another," she says. "But I know things will get better and I am grateful for the goodness people have shown us."

The food from our Food Bank found its way to a strong and appreciative family that hopes it will not need to depend on the generosity of others for too long. "Ker'Vonn spends every day looking for work," Anita says. "The kids are doing well in school. I know we will get through this."

Thanks to our donors, tens of thousands of families like the Stezlers going through unexpected tough times, find comfort in a good meal and hope that things will get better. Thank you for supporting us in our mission to end hunger in north Florida!

DID YOU KNOW?

Your food donations are tax deductible! The Second Harvest Food Bank is an IRS registered 501 (3)(c) organization and the receipts you receive for your product donations will help you save money on your annual tax return. Additionally, by donating, you can save money on disposal fees, and/or distressed product returns. It is recommended that you consult your accountant or tax advisor in order to determine the exact charitable contribution to which you may be entitled.

Q: What does the Food Bank do with product donations?

A: Our staff carefully transports your donated product to our 33,000-square-foot distribution center on Jessie Street, where product donations are quickly sorted by type and placed in appropriate storage (frozen, refrigerated or dry). All donations are receipted into our electronic inventory control system to ensure accountability and for tracking individual product donations. Our trained staff handle and store the frozen and prepared/perishable products, and volunteers help us sort and shelve the dry grocery products. We rapidly distribute the food to member agencies to help them accomplish their missions. These member agencies are IRS registered nonprofits that we monitor to insure that everyone who receives your donations is operating in compliance with all applicable food safety standards and pertinent laws and that product you donate will not be sold on the grey market.

► **See more about donating food at www.WeNourishHope.org/partners**

Canstruction winners announced

The results are in from the 8th Annual Canstruction competition at the Jacksonville Main Library, and the hands-down winner among local voters was the "Cat In The Can," a structure made in the form of Dr. Seuss' timeless classic, *The Cat In The Hat*.

The structure was created by the Skanska USA Building with Ghyabi & Associates using 1,725 cans of soup, tuna and tomato sauce.

► **See more Canstruction results at www.WeNourishHope.org/news-and-events**

What do parents do when they have to choose between a sick child and food? They pay for their child's medicine.

The mission of the Second Harvest Food Bank of North Florida is to distribute food and grocery products to hungry people and to educate the public about the causes and possible solutions to problems of domestic hunger.



CONTACT US

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CHICKEN KOOP PUTS 'MIS-CUTS' TO GOOD USE

When Darryl Elliott became the new store manager at the Chicken Koop Wings N Things Restaurant on Dunn Avenue, he noticed that lots of food that was still safe to eat was being thrown away at the end of each day. In an effort to help feed hungry people and improve the restaurant's bottom line, he implemented the *Second Helpings* prepared food donations program not only at his store but at the other three Chicken Koop locations around the city.

WHAT KIND OF PRODUCT THEY DONATE

The Chicken Koop prepares about 36 cases of wings each week. Some of the wings in each case are "mis-cuts" with the bone exposed, and after frying, the meat on others has drawn back, exposing the bone. In both of these instances, while the safety and flavor of the wing is unaffected, the product no longer meets Chicken Koop standards. Instead of discarding these wings

as they once did, they now bag, date stamp and freeze the wings in accordance with food safety standards. Every Friday, a Second Harvest Food Bank truck with active cooling arrives to collect these wings along with donations of rice and starches that were prepared in excess.

WHY THEY DONATE

For Elliott and the other Chicken Koop store managers, the chance to donate their unsalable but still safe products helps them maintain high aesthetic standards for their food while reducing waste. They are glad that they are able to help less fortunate members of the community. Additionally, since all donations to the Second Harvest are tax deductible, they save each restaurant location valuable dollars. As Darryl remarked, **"Not only are we giving back to our community, but in a way, we're getting paid to do it!"**