



## What do seniors do when they have to choose between buying food for their pets and buying food for themselves?

**They make sure their faithful companions are fed.**

The mission of the Second Harvest Food Bank 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.



## ON THE SEARCH FOR NEW, ALTERNATIVE FOOD SOURCES

I am new to "food banking" and I am continually fascinated by all that I am learning. Prior to working at Second Harvest North Florida, I would have guessed that a center such as ours would have stocked mostly cans and boxes of unsalable goods. I pictured tomato paste and lima beans, things not normally flying off of the shelves. Day old bread, maybe, but fresh, clean, new? Never.

Well, that may have been then, but now is a whole lot different. In this issue you will read about a program that highlights the changing nature of our mission. While cans and boxes, better known as 'shelf stable' products, and while these products remain the backbone of our poundage, we are moving toward a place where fresh, nutritious and calorie conscious are the watchwords. Second Harvest is endeavoring to develop partnerships and relationships that allow it to fundamentally alter the food equation. Not

only will we continue to initiate efforts that target specific groups (i.e. children, seniors, young adults, expectant mothers) but we are also searching for new, alternative sources for food.

Our goal is first and foremost to find food to feed those who are hungry. However, when we find research that suggests the infant mortality rate in Jacksonville is inordinately high, we must find a way to answer that call as well. This is how we found ourselves in Shands Jacksonville's OB-GYN Clinic handing out bags of fresh, nutritious food to expectant moms in Jacksonville. This is a way to prevent hunger, before the cycle starts. And that's a long way from dented cans and dusty boxes.

Best regards,  
 Thomas Mantz, Executive Director

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 OUR WEB SITE HAS A FACELIFT!  
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#### To donate food:

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