

Food Matters

Feeding the Hungry through the Salvation Army

A little over a year ago, Anthony Mosley found himself stranded in Florida after coming here for a job opportunity that didn't materialize. A sous-chef by trade,

Anthony had come for a dream job at Daytona Speedway's 500 Club, but lost the offer to another applicant.

Broke and disappointed, Anthony checked into the Salvation Army Jacksonville's shelter while money for his return trip was being wired to him. "I went to the dining hall for dinner the first night and the food was really bad!" he says. "I asked if I could volunteer

in the kitchen and three days later they offered me a job." Now, as the food services manager responsible for serving 20,000 meals each month, Anthony works with Second Harvest Food Bank to ensure that the menus are well-balanced and nutritious.

"When I took over the kitchen, the total budget was about \$30,000 a month. By taking advantage of the U.S. Department of Agriculture food products that the Second Harvest Food Bank distributes, I can operate for \$8,000 - \$10,000 a month," he says. "I can count on Second Harvest to deliver fresh, quality products. They come with a truckload of food every day and I am able to put to good use whatever is on the truck."

One family staying at the Salvation Army center has a story that is eerily similar to Anthony's. Grady worked as a cook in North Carolina for years, but when that restaurant closed, he couldn't find another job. He and Brandy brought their family to Jacksonville based on the promise of a job that fell through after they arrived. To make matters worse, the trailer containing all of their belongings caught fire during the trip and they lost everything.

"I used to block out homeless people when I saw them on the streets," says Brandy. "I never dreamed we would find ourselves in this position." Grady has been working as a day laborer during the week and earns extra cash on weekends as a human signboard. "I've been working at one place that wants me to come Monday through Friday next week," he says. "I'm hoping they will offer me a full-time job so we can get into our own home soon."

While Grady looks for steady work, Brandy has her hands full with their young family including a five-year-old, three-year-old and 17-month-old triplets. "I know I am blessed and I love all five of my children, but triplets are not something I would have asked the Lord for!" she says with a tired laugh. "I'm a minister's daughter so I



have a strong faith that God has a plan for us. I believe there is a reason he brought us to Jacksonville."

Food kitchens throughout North Florida depend on the Second Harvest Food Bank to provide cost effective, nutritious food so they can serve the tens of thousands of people who need help in order to feed their families—families like the Ogle's who find themselves facing challenges they couldn't have imagined a few years ago. ■

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What do employees do when they can't afford both gas and food? They drive to work hungry.

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.



Take a Bite out of Hunger at the Jacksonville FOODFIGHT!

Every year the Second Harvest Food Bank benefits from the incredible, edible generosity of 50 of Jacksonville's finest restaurants. This friendly competition showcases a glorious variety of signature dishes and the finest spirits presented throughout two floors of the magnificent Crown Royal Touchdown Club in Jacksonville Municipal Stadium. Mark your calendars for Thursday, June 4, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. to attend this truly fabulous event!

Live musical entertainment, a silent auction and a raffle will heighten the evening's festivities and raise additional support for the Food Bank. These exciting items have been donated:

- **Sony portable 8-inch DVD player**
- **Jaguar Gameday Experience**
- **12 facial acupuncture treatments from Dr. Kelly Huber**
- **Chick-Fil-A for a year**
- **Eight-bottle in-home wine tasting from PRP Wine**
- **Kingsford 22.5-inch kettle grill**

Attendance at FOODFIGHT is **NOT** required to win the raffled prizes. Winners not in attendance will be notified the week following the event.

Event and raffle tickets are on sale now at www.JacksonvilleFoodFight.org or can be ordered by calling 904.739.7074. Event tickets are \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door for general admission.

VIP tickets are \$75 each and include a special reception from

6 - 6:30 p.m. and reserved seating area throughout the event. Ticket packages and event sponsorships are also available. Raffle tickets are just \$20 each.



The Jacksonville FOODFIGHT is a tradition that has raised more than \$1 million dollars for Second Harvest Food Bank in the 19 years it has been produced. All proceeds will benefit the growing number of people in our community who need our assistance. Please join us to make this year's event the most successful ever! ■