

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.



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NALC FOOD DRIVE AIMS TO SURPASS 300,000 POUNDS

By **Sandy Manasco**
 Agency Development Manager

Residents in Duval, Clay, Baker and Nassau counties will help "Stamp Out Hunger" over Mother's Day Weekend by donating food for letter carriers to collect on Saturday, May 9. The 17th Annual National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) Food Drive encourages residents to leave nonperishable food donations by their mailboxes to help provide much-needed food to the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Volunteers receive the food as letter carriers return to postal distribution centers throughout the day, and more volunteers unload and store the food when it is taken to the Food Bank. The Food Bank distributes the food to church pantries, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and senior citizen centers. The food

is especially helpful in feeding children who do not have access to free or reduced-fee school lunches over summer vacation.

Last year, the Food Bank received more than 283,000 pounds of donated food from the NALC Food Drive, 40 percent more than in 2007. In contrast, the rest of the state experienced decreases in donations, proving once again that north Florida residents respond generously when asked to help others.

"We need all the help we can get to collect enough food to serve the growing numbers of residents who are struggling to make ends meet in this economy," Wayne Rieley, the Food Bank's acting executive director, said. Contact the Rev. Larry Riley, volunteer coordinator, at 904.353.3663 or e-mail lriley@WeNourishHope.org.

► **See additional events at <http://www.WeNourishHope.org/news-and-events>.**