



A Quarterly Publication from the
Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana

Summer 2017 Newsletter

FOOD FOR *Thought*

ZOE'S STORY

Despite receiving year-round food assistance, buying groceries in bulk, and even taking a free class on couponing, Zoe and her family of four children always seem to be running low on food. For this reason, Zoe depends on the school breakfast and lunch programs that help feed her three elementary aged children. "When school is in session, I don't have to worry about my kids going hungry because I'm fortunate enough for my kids to eat breakfast and lunch at school," she said. But when summer comes around and school is out, Zoe finds herself struggling to provide enough food for her kids to eat. "Those months are hard," she said.



"Especially when you have more than one child depending on you to put food in front of them, and you're not even sure if you'll have enough." With parents like Zoe in mind, the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana provides free meals to children enrolled in Summer Clubs and Programs like Boys & Girls Clubs, churches and

libraries. Throughout the summer months, the Food Bank will provide more than 50,000 meals for children in need.

"These are healthy, nutritious meals," said Marleah Walker, the Food Bank's Agency Relations and Program Director. "The meals follow the U.S.D.A. guidelines and are made up of well balanced, nutritious foods, including fruit and vegetables." This summer, Zoe found some peace of mind when her children visited a nearby church and were given meals that included fruit, vegetables, and milk. The children will be able to return to the church all summer long, and Zoe is relieved to know they are getting nutritious food to eat. "Fruit is so expensive," Zoe said. "But it's important for the kids to have it. As a parent, it feels good to know my family is eating healthy food."

ENDING SUMMER HUNGER



One in five children in Northwest Louisiana are food insecure. That is why the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana is partnering with the Shreve Memorial Libraries to provide free healthy lunches to children as part of the Food Bank's Summer Food Service Program. The Summer Food Service Program provides meals to kids during the summer months, when they are at higher risk of hunger.

Lunch will be provided from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the following Shreve Memorial Library Branches:

- Atkins Branch, 3704 Greenwood Road
- David Raines Branch, 2855 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive
- Hamilton/South Caddo Resource Center, 2111 Bert Kouns Industrial Loop
- Main Branch, 424 Texas Street
- Mooretown Branch, 4360 Hollywood Avenue
- Wallethe Branch, 363 Hearne Avenue
- West Shreveport Branch, 4380 Pines Road

Meals will be provided free of charge by the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana Monday through Friday through July 31, 2017.



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You can visit the
Food Bank of
Northwest Louisiana
online anytime at:

www.foodbanknla.org

*Check out our website to
learn more about events,
volunteer opportunities, to make
safe, secure online donations
and to learn more about the
Food Bank.*



Letter

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Martha Marak

For many of us, summertime means family vacations and cookouts with friends and neighbors. But imagine instead of trying to decide where to go on your trip, you had to decide between putting gas in your car to go to work or feeding your child a full, healthy meal. Or instead of running to the store to pick up groceries for a barbecue, you had to stand in line at a food pantry because your food budget didn't stretch far enough that month.

Unfortunately, that is the difficult situation that faces the families of nearly 27,000 children this summer. When school is out, these children lose access they normally receive at their school cafeteria. These children are worrying about an empty stomach, and their families are trying desperately to stretch already strained budgets. As a result, there are more parents and guardians seeking help to feed their children during a time when food banks across the country see a decrease in giving.

Each summer your donations have helped the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana to provide thousands of meals to these children, and we're asking you to join us again to help Stop Summer Hunger. Your donation can make an impact in a child's life this summer. By supporting the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana, you make it possible for us to provide breakfast and lunch to children through our Children's Summer Meals Program.

Thank you for giving thousands of children the possibility of a carefree summer — an opportunity to just be a kid and enjoy the summer.

With gratitude,

Martha Marak

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GIVE FOR GOOD RESULTS

Thank you for participating in Give for Good on Tuesday, May 2nd! Together, our generous supporters and the Community Foundation of North Louisiana together raised \$26,027.50 for our Food Bank.

**USDA Nondiscrimination Statement
Civil Rights Requirements**

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, sex, disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA.

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12TH ANNUAL EMPTY BOWLS HUNGER AWARENESS EVENT

The Food Bank's largest fundraiser of the year, Empty Bowls, was held Thursday, June 1 at the ELDORADO Resort Casino Shreveport. This event could not take place without the generous support of our sponsors. The event raised enough funds to provide 254,000 meals for our community.

2017 Sponsors

Gold Sponsors:

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ELDORADO Resort Casino Shreveport
Enterprise Car Rental
Manpower
Willis-Knighton Health System

Bronze Sponsor:

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AEP Southwestern Electric Power Company
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Barksdale Federal Credit Union
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MidSouth Bank
Moreman-Moore
Vickie and Paul Young

In Kind Sponsors:

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Gremillion & Pou
Karen LaBeau
Magnolia Mae
James Marks
Plum Nelly Flower Farm

Outstanding Agency:

St. Mathews A.M.E.



2017 Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana Empty Bowls Hunger Awareness Event



Major Food Bank supporter, Caddo Parish, was represented Caddo Commissioners Steven Jackson and Matthew Lynn at Empty Bowls 2017. Not pictured, Mario Chavez.

UNITED WAY DAY OF CARING 2017



Thanks to all our volunteers who came out for United Way's Day of Caring on Friday, May 12, 2017 to help the Food Bank. Our Team of volunteers was led by Aaron Bossenbery from PCL Construction. A team of volunteers from Williams Company painted the exterior of the building while helpers from Heard, McElroy, and Vestal sorted and packed food in boxes. We even had a special ice cream treat provided by Red River Bank Regional President, Bridges Hall. Our thanks to United Way for coordinating a great day and to all of our volunteers, we really appreciate your hard work!



STAMP OUT HUNGER RESULTS

Our sincere thanks to Letter Carriers Danny Hatchett and Willie Johnson that organized the 2017 Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive in Shreveport and Bossier City. We are grateful for the Letter Carriers that provided assistance with the food drive to help the members of our community who are struggling with hunger. This year's Stamp Out Hunger garnered 73,715 pounds of food! Thank you Letter Carriers!

FEEDING HOPE SPECIALTY LICENSE PLATE AVAILABLE

Help raise awareness of hunger in Louisiana while on your summer road trips! Supporters of Louisiana's Food Banks can help fight hunger and show their support with the "Feeding Hope" specialty license plate from the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles. The Feeding Hope specialty license plate costs \$25 in addition to regular registration fees and is renewed every two years. Of the \$25 fee, \$21.50 goes to the Louisiana Food Bank Association.



You can go online to the Office of Motor Vehicles website "Special Plate Viewer" to order your Feeding Hope specialty plate.

1. Visit OMV's website <http://bit.ly/feedinghope>
 2. Enter your current license plate number
 3. Click on Special Interest and scroll through the list, click on "Feeding Hope"
 4. Click on Ordering Details and follow the instructions on the form
 5. Print out the form (there is no online submission) and remit payment as noted
- **Be sure to enclose a copy of your vehicle registration and proof of insurance!

If you have questions, please contact Korey Patty at (225) 308-2038.

Food Bank Facts

As a hunger-relief organization, the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana acquires, stores, and distributes food and other essential items to low income children and individuals through 130 community non-profit and faith-based organizations within Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Bienville, Claiborne, Red River and DeSoto Parishes. These organizations consist of homeless shelters, residential centers, churches, pantry programs, and schools. We save these agencies millions each year by providing free and low cost food and products.

OUR PROGRAMS INCLUDE

Food and Emergency Distribution:

In our last fiscal year, we distributed 9 million pounds of food with a value of \$14,500,000 to more than 75,000 children, women, men, seniors, the homeless, disabled, unemployed and underemployed individuals living below the federal poverty level in our seven parish service area of north-west Louisiana.

Disaster Relief:

As a disaster responder we provide immediate assistance to our member agencies, pop-up and faith based shelters and other individuals. During the 2016 Spring flood we distributed food, water, MRE's and supplies to disaster victims.

Senior Box Program:

Each month we deliver a box of pantry staple foods to over 1,000 low income seniors throughout our seven parishes.

Mobile Pantry:

Perishable and non-perishable food are distributed to rural clients on a monthly basis.

Kids Cafe®:

Through a partnership with the Volunteers of America's Lighthouse Program and FDDOC Winner's Circle, hot meals and nutritional education are provided to hungry children in after-school programs.

BackPack™ Program:

Chronically hungry children are provided with a weekly backpack of food to take home for the weekend and holidays. Each 7-10 pound bag includes items such as cereal, milk, fruit juice, and pop-top canned food.

Summer Food Service Program:

Nutritional breakfasts and lunches are provided for hungry children that have no access to free food during the summer months when school is not in session. Food is distributed through summer programs such as Boys and Girls Clubs and faith based summer programs.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Pack food boxes for Senior Program
- Help administration with clerical duties
- Organize a food drive or virtual food drive
- Deliver senior food boxes monthly

Contact Gene Haynes, Community Resource Coordinator, for information on volunteering with the Food Bank 318-675-2400 ext. 115 or ghaynes@foodbanknla.org