



YOUR COVID-19 IMPACT REPORT

March 2020 – February 2021

HOPE & RELIEF IN UNPRECEDENTED TIMES



LETTER FROM THE CEO



It's fair to say that none of us were prepared for the serious disruption that the COVID-19 pandemic brought to our lives and our community.

For thousands of our neighbors, however, the 'disruption' was literally devastating. As jobs were furloughed or ended, and last paychecks spent, it did not take long for many to face the prospect of hunger for themselves and their families. The need for food in Central Florida began to spike in ways never seen before.

It was clear that our neighbors were going to need a historic effort from the entire community in order to stay afloat, and to put food on the table. With the help of so many caring people like you, the Food Bank ramped up distribution efforts from 150,000 to more than 300,000 meals per day in short order. That level of service began in March 2020 and continues in 2021. New innovations were born to help put more food into the hands of people who need it. The Bring Hope Home delivery program delivered meals to people who could not get out to access food. A phone bank to assist people with SNAP benefit applications was created. And the Mercy Kitchen facility increased the production of prepared meals by up to 23,000 per day.

Communities and organizations are tested by disasters and remembered by their response. Central Florida can be proud of your reaction to the havoc that COVID-19 brought. People like you, our supporters, partners, donors, advocates and volunteers have been nothing short of heroic. Local governments, corporations, and foundations all stepped up to provide for the unprecedented increase in need. Together, working as a united front in the fight against hunger, you have made an incredible difference in the lives of those who urgently needed help.

Thank You!

A handwritten signature of Dave Krepcho.

Dave Krepcho | President/CEO

YOUR COVID-19 IMPACT

96 MILLION TOTAL MEALS



58% FRESH FOOD DISTRIBUTED



505 FEEDING PARTNERS



149,839 SEARCHES
on Food Finder



20,263 VOLUNTEERS
64,116 hours



HOPEFUL INNOVATIONS



A MOBILE MISSION

It was noon. Cars snaked through parking lots, lined side streets and poured out onto US 192 in Kissimmee as hundreds of families waited in hot vehicles for hours. They weren't clamoring to meet a celebrity or vying for parking to attend an event at Silver Spurs Arena. Instead these families were waiting for one of life's basic necessities: food.

Together, a small army of volunteers wearing masks and gloves helped load boxes of fresh vegetables, gallons of milk, dozens of eggs and bags filled with staple items like soup, pasta, cereal and tuna into car trunks and pick-up truck beds. This scene has been repeated nearly 600 times in the last year.

Your support during the COVID-19 pandemic has allowed Second Harvest to fill a semi-truck with food two or three times a day and drive it to places like Camping World Stadium, Daytona International Speedway, community centers, college campuses and church parking lots. These mobile food distributions have been a life saver for people like Alex.

"My family has been in a rough situation," he says. Alex lost his job due to dwindling theme park attendance last year. His wife is battling cancer and they have two kids.

Because of you, unemployed workers and their families, seniors scared to leave home and kids learning remotely have been able to safely pick up food at a contact-free food distribution. Your support gives a sense of relief and hope to families in crisis.

"You are a godsend. We really appreciate this."

BRINGING HOPE HOME

In response to the high demand for home-delivered food due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Second Harvest rolled out its Bring Hope Home delivery program. External partners and volunteer drivers help safely transport food directly to people in need in a contact-free manner. Recipients include seniors, homebound individuals, people with a disability and those in the high-risk group for contracting coronavirus.

Thanks to people like you, 48,906 food deliveries were completed across all six Central Florida counties through the Bring Hope Home program since its inception last spring. One grateful recipient is Jimmy.

"My new normal is going from the doorstep, down the driveway to the mailbox, and back again," Jimmy explains. Like many seniors in Central Florida, he is staying close to home. "I go out to get some fresh air, and that's it."

Prior to the pandemic, Jimmy experienced a massive stroke, which has forced him to take things easy and step away from his job as a hotel food and beverage manager. Now, because of your support, Jimmy is on the receiving end of a different kind of hospitality.

The Bring Hope Home program provides both fresh produce and non-perishable food items. The produce box is an assortment of seasonal fruits and vegetables. The nonperishable food box includes lots of staple items to make meals. Jimmy especially likes it when he finds spaghetti and marinara sauce inside.

"I want to say a big, big, big, thank you," says Jimmy.



**"I WANT TO SAY
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BIG THANK YOU."**

NOW OPEN: MERCY KITCHEN



With generous support from Orange County Government's CARES Act funding and community members like you, Second Harvest opened Mercy Kitchen just a few miles north of the Orlando warehouse in January 2021. The new location more than doubled the available space to prepare perishable meals and increased the capacity to provide for childhood hunger relief programs like Kids Café and Summer Food Service Program, while also expanding social entrepreneurial offerings such as vended meal contracts and corporate catering.

Mercy Kitchen produces 23,000 meals a day, more than three times as many as a normal day prior to the pandemic. The rapid growth includes two new community meal initiatives developed during the pandemic. The first is a seven-day box program that provides a week's worth of breakfasts and lunches for children, seniors and veterans. The second features a family meal box with chef-inspired meals designed to feed a family of four.

"During this crisis we're not sure how to make ends meet," says Robert, who helps distribute family meal boxes to residents at an Orange County senior center. "There are people out there who care, they open their hearts to serve their fellow man. Thank you."

"THERE ARE PEOPLE OUT THERE WHO CARE."

THANK YOU

Our world and our community have faced many challenges in the last year. Because of people like you – supporters, partners, donors, advocates and volunteers – our neighbors in Central Florida received an unprecedented amount of meals and hope when they needed it most. Thank you for your continued generosity.

To find ways to get involved as relief efforts continue in 2021, visit www.feedopenow.org.



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