



The **HARVESTER**

Summer 2011

Newsletter of Birmingham's Food Recovery Program

The Realities of Food Insecurity Around Us...

One day, a teacher asked the students in his class how many of them had eaten breakfast and only a few hands went up. After privately questioning those who hadn't eaten, the teacher met with the last student. The teacher asked him why he hadn't eaten breakfast. The little boy's response: "It wasn't my turn."

No person, let alone a child, in the wealthiest country in the world, should have to take turns eating any meal due to a lack of sufficient food. This country produces more than enough food for its people and much of the rest of the world, yet people are still hungry. For many purchasing food is at the end of the list after paying rent and utilities.

Here at Magic City Harvest we are doing our part to fight hunger. Instead of excess food being thrown away when it is still perfectly edible, we pick it up and deliver it to local feeding sites. This process helps everyone involved. Less food is being thrown away and wasted, local social service agencies have food to serve, and hungry people are being fed.

And the Impact of the Tornado Disaster....

Very simply put, the number of folks struggling to access sufficient, nutritious food in our community increased significantly after the tornados hit April 27th. Birmingham, Tuscaloosa and other area communities were blessed by the generous local and national response to immediate needs.

However, we are now at a place where victims are requesting ongoing help from local agencies, who each day shelter, feed and/or provide financial assistance. Food assistance requests from households who are sheltering displaced family and friends are increasing. More folks are coming to emergency food programs—soup kitchens, food pantries...

In an effort to build capacity to meet "regular" food needs, **MCH acquired a THIRD refrigerated truck 2 weeks before the tornados hit...WHAT A BLESSING!** Beginning with the delivery of a truck of food to a Pratt City mobile kitchen on April 29th, MCH has collaboratively responded to victims and volunteers food needs. To continue this work as well as our "normal" distribution your financial support is needed!

Magic City Harvest is the non-profit prepared and perishable food distribution program of greater Birmingham, helping to alleviate hunger, malnutrition, and food waste through the free distribution of donated excess foods to programs feeding those in need.

Board of Trustees

Brian Cash, Chair
Madrene Roberts, Vice Chair
Janice Allen, Secretary
James Howell, Treasurer
Tell Alessio
Amy Allen
Charollette Beeker
Cindy Bembry
Glenn Bright
Dorothy Cochran
Anne Cowin
Carlye Dudgeon
Shelly Jacobs
Catherine Lindsey
Anje Roney
Valerie Sherrod

Executive Director

Paulette Van Matre
mchfood@bellsouth.net

Staff

Ann Wallace—Program Asst
mcharvest@bellsouth.net
Willie Paulk, Rick Jones—Drivers
Jennifer Ropa—GBCFP
bhamfoodsecurity@gmail.com

Magic City Harvest

P.O. Box 11292
Birmingham, AL 35202
(205) 591-FOOD
Fax: (205) 591-3665
www.magiccityharvest.org
FACEBOOK

Magic City Harvest Needs Your Help today.....

Increased distribution of food means increased expenses related to truck fuel and maintenance, food handling supplies, logistics staff ...

**MCH distributed 1.5 million lbs of food in 2010—
We estimate distribution of over 2 million lbs of food in 2011**

**PLEASE MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION TODAY..
TO HELP MAGIC CITY HARVEST FEED THOSE IN NEED!**

The Harvester

Summer 2011



P.O. Box 11292
Birmingham, AL
35202

NON-PROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #01796
BIRMINGHAM, AL

SOMEONE IN BIRMINGHAM IS HUNGRY FOR YOUR ATTENTION!!!

MCH ACKNOWLEDGES With Gratitude

These New Food Donors..

A New Leaf Farm Stand
CVS Distribution Center
Piggly Wiggly Food Stores
Crestline
Homewood
River Run

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS !!

**Cathedral Church of the Advent
St. Luke's Episcopal Church
Independent Presby Foundation
St. Stephens Episcopal Church
The Stephens Foundation
The Thompson Foundation
Robert Meyer Foundation
Susan Mott Webb Foundation
Social Affair
Oscars at the Museum
St. Vincent's Health System**

MCH welcomes to the staff, Jennifer Ropa, the new GBCFP coordinator. This contract position is funded through the CPPW grant.

Currently serving on the AL Obesity Task Force and the Shelby County Children's Policy Council Health Committee, Jennifer and her family reside in Pelham. She is the founder of Once Upon a Coupon.

MTN BRK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH'S "GROWING FOR OTHERS" GARDEN THANK YOU!!



**MANY THANKS TO garden neighbor William Barnes
Who donated a much needed scarecrow....He should keep
The crows away!!**



Mary, Mary quite contrary.. How does your garden grow?
VERY WELL—but it is Laura Dooley, our garden coordinator who, along with fabulous volunteers, has the garden looking beautiful AND producing great veggies!!
THANK YOU to Robert Meyer Foundation for funding Laura's position for the 2011 growing season.