

SILVER BELLS

Second Harvest Food Bank celebrates 25th anniversary

BY LAYLA FARMER
THE CHRONICLE

If it takes a village to raise a food bank, as Executive Director Nan Griswold is fond of saying, then Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina is all grown up.

The organization celebrated its silver anniversary last week.

"Twenty-five years ago, we opened our doors in a little, 1800 square foot warehouse on Polo Road - one employee - myself, and many, many volunteers and a wonderful board of directors," Griswold said. "We have been so fortunate through those 25 years, to have so many supporters."

Since then, the food bank has distributed 90 million pounds of food to organizations serving those in need across northwest North Carolina.

"It really is a ministry, and that is to reduce hunger and malnutrition in 18 counties across Northwest North Carolina," commented Second Harvest Board Chair Ken Crews. "It is so wonderful to be a part of an organization that really strives to make that happen."

The food bank also celebrated the first anniversary of Triad Community Kitchen, a program that helps unemployed and underemployed citizens gain culinary skills using perishable food items at the food bank. The prepared food is then rationed and delivered to needy individuals across its coverage area.

The nine graduates honored at Monday's event made up the epsilon graduating class of the TCK, bringing the grand total to 60 graduates in just under 13 months. It was a poignant moment for Executive Director and Chef Jeff Bacon.

"I'm so proud of you guys; I'm going to try not to get all choked up here, so just bear with me," Bacon, the visionary behind the project, told the graduates. "It's just really a miracle that a person like me - that used to be homeless, that used to be a prisoner in the penal system, a drug addict, a thief, a hopeless individual who burned every bridge that I ever built - can stand here today with a dream like that and have it come true and to be able to do what I do, to get paid and earn a living helping other people."

State Rep. Dale Folwell and his wife, longtime supporters of the food bank, pre-

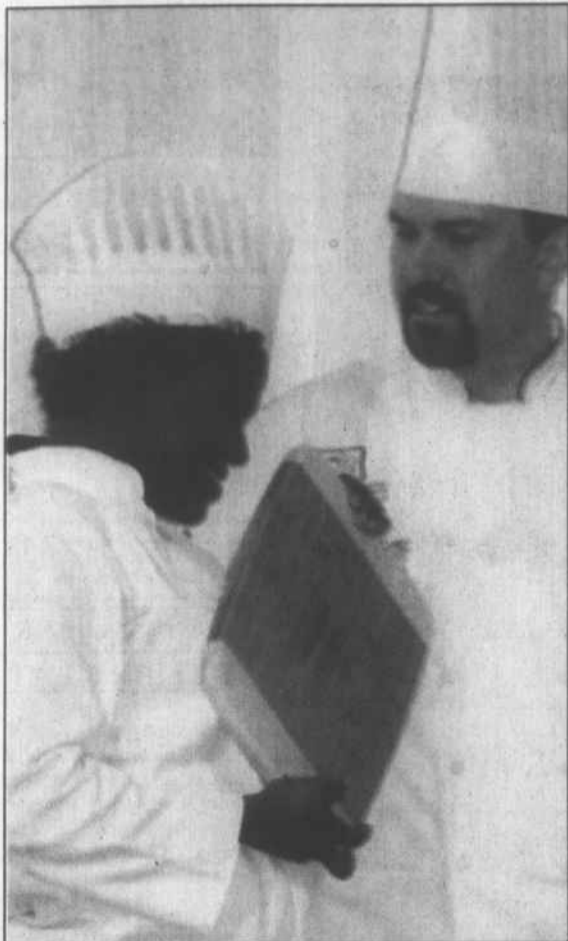


Photo by Layla Farmer

Chef Jeff Bacon presents an award to a graduate.

sented a \$2,500 donation to the Clive Fitzgerald Society, named for Clive W. Fitzgerald Jr., who served the organization three separate times as board chair. Folwell then addressed the graduates.

"I spoke to a class just like yours a few months ago and I'll tell you what I told them: where you started from in life has no bearing on where you're going," he commented. "Don't let anyone tell you or convince you differently."

Karen McNeil-Miller served as keynote speaker for the occasion. McNeil-Miller serves as president of the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust, which has donated nearly \$1 million to the food bank since its inception in 1982.

Frank and bubbly, McNeil cautioned the graduates to recognize that they were embarking upon a new chapter in their lives.

"As you know, 'to whom much is given, much is required,'" she declared. "What's required of you now, what's expected of you is that you're going to assume some leadership positions."

While some may find the onslaught of new responsibility a little daunting, McNeil-Miller assured the graduates that they already possessed the qualities needed to make good leaders. She related their struggle to that of the characters in her favorite movie, "The Wizard of Oz."

"There are five things you need to be an effective leader - you need some brains, you need some heart, you need some courage, you need a destination and you need a little help from your friends," she explained. "You've already got what it takes; you're smart, you've got heart, you've got courage, you know where you're going, you've got lots of friends."

The executive director applauded the graduates for all they had accomplished so far and urged them to continue on their journeys.

Griswold also praised the graduates for taking that first step to better their lives and that of their families by entering and completing the program.

"We gave you the opportunity, (but) you're the ones that took it," she remarked. "You are a gift to us, every single one of you; a gift to this program, and you will be, and are, a gift to this community."



Griswold

News Clips

A&T offering fitness programs for students, faculty, staff

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University's newest health and fitness program is being offered this January to the entire university community.

The A&T Health and Fitness Program is designed to bring about a healthy, exciting and proactive regimen of exercising that will help propel you to your next healthy lifestyle. The program, called "Healthy & Fit for Life" will offer health and fitness consultations, fitness equipment and exercise orientation; nutritional and body fat assessments; one-on-one personal training; cardiovascular exercise training and testing and muscular strength training and assessment.

Staff, program changes at WFDD

88.5 WFDD recently welcomed Cynthia DiMattia to the staff of the Piedmont Triad's public radio station. DiMattia was named news director in late November and will be based at WFDD's Greensboro location.

WFDD's Greensboro studio opened in 2001 and is located downtown in the Self-Help Building.

DiMattia gained more than a decade of experience in broadcast journalism as a reporter, anchor, producer, and manager at radio and television stations in Kansas and Oklahoma. In addition, DiMattia has extensive experience as a computer systems consultant and technical writer for major corporations in the Triad.

In addition, WFDD has announced that reporter and commentator Jeff Tiberii has been named the local host of "Morning Edition," National Public Radio's flagship news program, heard from 5am-9am weekdays on WFDD. Tiberii, who joined WFDD in 2006, will continue to produce weekly sports commentaries and other local news stories in addition to his new daily hosting duties. Jeff's award winning sports commentaries are heard every Monday at 7:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. and are also available as a podcast at wfdd.org.

EnergyUnited refunds \$2.3 million to members

EnergyUnited is refunding approximately \$2.3 million in capital credits to its members in December. Capital credits are a major benefit of belonging to an electric cooperative.

When members sign up for electricity from EnergyUnited, they pay a nominal membership fee that makes them one of the owners of the electric cooperative. This gives them the right to share in any excess margins.

Members who received electric service in 1982 and 1983 from either Crescent or Davidson EMCs, which consolidated to form

EnergyUnited, or service from EnergyUnited in 2006, receive a portion of the dis-counted capital credits for those years. Capital credits are issued in the form of a credit on December electric bills.

The refund represents a portion of the total individual capital credits held by EnergyUnited. The total amount of individual capital credits in a member's account depends on the length of time the member has been served by EnergyUnited and the amount of the member's electric bills. The remaining portions of the capital credits may be refunded in later years based on approval by the EnergyUnited board of directors.

Carver grad promoted to senior airman

Alphonso U. Moseley has been promoted to the rank of senior airman in the U.S. Air Force.

Moseley is a personnel evaluations monitor assigned to the 437th Airlift Wing at Charleston Air Force Base, North Charleston, S.C. The airman first class has served in the military for three years.

He is the son of Angela Hodge, and the stepson of Clematime D. Fields. Moseley is a 2003 graduate of Carver High School.



Moseley

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