



Clyde Fitzgerald with Lee Frech, Asst. Fire Marshall Angie Sowell, Barbara Saulpaugh and Mayor Allen Joines.

Agency needs help to raise millions of pounds of food

BY TODD LUCK
THE CHRONICLE

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest N.C. plans to raise an additional two million pounds of food in the next year to meet the growing challenge of hunger.

While food donations to the Food Bank are about the same as they were a year ago, demand has grown greatly as the economy has soured. Second Harvest distributes food to 415 partner-agencies like churches, shelters and after school programs. Requests for food from the partners have increased by 76 percent this year.

"Most of this is driven by first time requesters that are suffering from the economic human catastrophe that is all around us," said Clyde Fitzgerald, executive director of the area Second Harvest, as he announced the "Get Fired Up for Food" campaign Monday at Lowes Foods on Robinhood Road.

The "Get Fired Up for Food" campaign is designed to raise the additional food so that no one has to go hungry. Residents in all 18 counties that the Food Bank serves will be asked to help out. The immediate goal is to raise an additional two million pounds of food by June of 2010. But the campaign will stretch over the next three years, during which the Food Bank wants to fill its warehouse to capacity. Annually, the warehouse stores about nine million pounds, but it has the capacity to hold 13 million pounds.

The Food Bank will call on fraternities, sororities, clubs, schools and other groups and associations to assist them by hosting food drives and/or hosting fundraisers for the agency.

Companies will also be asked to help fulfill the need. The announcement was held at Lowes Foods because the locally-based grocery chain has been one of the Food Bank's most loyal supporters. The chain places bins in its stores each holiday season and encourages customers to donate food. For the past several summers, Lowes has also held the "Bag Childhood Hunger" campaign to generate the extra food needed for children to eat breakfast and lunch at summer programs or recreation centers. Bags of food are available for purchase at Lowes stores. They can then be dropped in Second Harvest Food Bank bins at the stores. Monetary donations can also be made at the stores' registers. "Bag Childhood Hunger" lasts through the month of June in all 111 Lowes Foods stores.

"We're a food provider, (so) to feed people that are hungry, just makes sense to us," said Barbara Saulpaugh, a Lowes Foods executive and Second Harvest board member.

Mayor Allen Joines said the city did its part to help the Food Bank meet the rising demand for food. City employees conducted a food drive, collecting 5,977 pounds of items. As one of the largest employers in Winston-Salem, Joines said that it was important for the

city to set an example for other businesses.

"We felt like we should step up and really help set the tone for this thing," said Joines.

Old Salem Museums and Gardens is now conducting a food drive. Lee French, the president and CEO of Old Salem, said that any child 13 years of age or younger that brings two cans of food to Old Salem through July 31 will be admitted for free.

"Everyone can help in this campaign, and we need you to do that," said Fitzgerald. "Even one can of food to a person who has none, means the world."

For more information, go to www.hungernwnc.org.



BOOTS FULL OF CASH



Winston-Salem's Professional Firefighters of Local #682 recently helped to raise \$9,500 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Firefighters hit the streets June 10 - 12, standing alongside busy streets to collect donations for the agency. The Fill-the-Boot fundraising drive has raised thousands of dollars for MDA over the years. Here, Mayor Allen Joines, second from left, and MDA District Director Brittnie Stevens, recognize local firefighters for their efforts. Accepting the honor are local Union President Ed Duffield, far left, and Firefighter Michael Hodges, the Fill-the-Boot coordinator, far right.

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