

## DIFFICULT LIFE CHOICES SENIORS FACE TODAY



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## DEBI

In her earlier years after Navy service, Debi Warren was the volunteer warehouse manager at Our Daily Bread in Hammond for seven years. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, she would make food boxes for people who had nowhere to turn to for food. Later in life, Debi would unexpectedly find herself on the receiving end of those food lines and forever grateful for those who give to Food Banks.

One of three children whose mother was from Illinois and father from Louisiana, Debi grew up with two brothers. Her life has been marred by tragedy: her youngest brother tragically took his own life, and her other brother became paralyzed when he broke his neck in a diving accident. At the time of the accident, Debi was serving in a Navy hospital. She got out early so that she could come home and care for her brother. She later had a son who was tragically killed by a drunk driver just over 5 years ago. Debi found herself alone, taking care of her brother and struggling to make ends meet.

While she had received a Navy pension for many years, it was just \$1,000 a month. More recently she was required to move over to Social Security which dropped her income to \$996 a month. With a limited budget, she began visiting a food pantry herself as needed to fill the gaps financially each month.

“Every month I pay all my bills when I get my check. Then I have to put up so much a month for property taxes, insurance and so it dwindles you know. There are a lot of times I don’t turn on my heat or my air conditioning because I know I can’t pay a big old bill. And I’m not the only one that has to do this. A lot of people have to do this,” she observed.

With the arrival of the pandemic, she found herself visiting the pantries more often.

“When COVID hit, I’d go to the pantry at Southeast Ministries. \$31 a month in food stamps is what I get now, and so it’s not a lot for a grocery store these days,” said Debi. “So, I depend on the pantry a lot to help me. I have met other ladies in the food lines and so we now network and share resources to make sure that all of the food is used, and nothing goes to waste.”

Making the transition to receiving food assistance was a difficult decision for Debi.

“It’s hard to go from a place where I volunteered and now, I’m receiving food,” she stated. “I always had good jobs and worked hard, so it’s just embarrassing not to be as financially stable as I used to be. It’s hard and it’s frustrating but I know there are a lot of people like me in this same position.”

Debi now participates in the Senior Grocery program at the Food Bank and is very thankful for the programs but also wanted to let those who give know they are making a real impact on people’s lives.

“Donate. Donate. Donate. Because the need is great,” she said. “Without the Food Bank, so many people would go hungry. They would have no one to turn to. You all make a difference. I just want you to know that you make a difference to a lot of people.”



## FIGHTING HUNGER IN 2022: BIG CHALLENGES AHEAD

2021 has been a difficult year on many fronts for both businesses and families, and we have faced those same challenges here at your Food Bank. We have seen disruptions in the supply chain due to low inventory and increased demand has forced higher food prices. To make matters worse, the rising cost of fuel forces the working poor to spend more money on commuting between work and home instead of being able to feed their families.

Rising fuel costs also affect the cost of operations for the Food Bank in purchasing fuel to transport food from vendors to our facility and then to distributions out to our member agencies. While we are forever grateful for the abundance of food drives that are organized by local organizations, businesses, churches, and agencies, the Food Bank must purchase fuel for our trucks, so we are able to pick up and deliver boxes of donated food throughout our 11-parish service area.

Another challenge we are facing as we enter 2022 will be limitations on USDA food inventory. Food banks who purchase food through the USDA at deeply discounted prices will be forced to purchase food through higher priced vendors due to anticipated shortages in available USDA food product. What's more, the high demand for food when the food supply has become limited causes inflated prices for both food banks and individuals. This creates a turbulent cycle for families experiencing food insecurity who are simply doing their best to provide while the economy recovers from natural disasters such as Hurricane Ida, coronavirus, unemployment, and inflation.

Amidst these challenges, we also see Louisiana falling short when compared to the rest of the country. Currently, Louisiana leads

the nation in child hunger with 1 in 4 children in the state being food insecure and is very near the top in senior food insecurity. Higher food and fuel costs forces families experiencing food insecurity and those who may have been able to get out of our lines to rely even more heavily on or return to food banks to fill the gap between each meal. The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank is expecting our food lines to grow longer due to an increase in need for our services.

A big focus for us in 2022 will be launching new and innovative ways to reach more people who are in need but don't know where to turn for help. We want families and individuals to be able to find the help that they need and to be able to access the information they need to get food for their families. Launching our mobile app with timely details on food distributions and more is just one way we are trying to expand our reach to those who are in need but may only have access to a cell phone.

There is much to consider and much to be done, but we always will be here working to fulfill our mission. With your help, we will continue to innovate and improve our efficiency and effectiveness to ensure there is food on the tables of our neighbors in need. We truly appreciate your continued commitment in answering the call to serve others.

Michael G. Manning

President & CEO, Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank

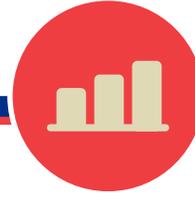
# 2021 IMPACT REPORT



OVER  
**16.7 Million**  
Meals Distributed



OVER  
**20.1 Million**  
Pounds Distributed



**+23%**  
More Pounds  
Distributed Versus 2020

“My mother never thought she would have to go from giving to the community to having to depend upon something like this senior grocery program.” – **Mary**



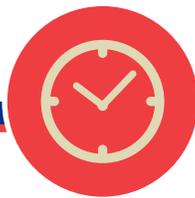
**415**  
Ida Response Mobile  
Distributions



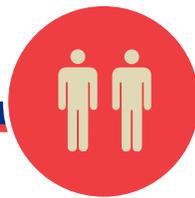
OVER  
**3.7 Million**  
Pounds Distributed for  
Ida Response

“At first I was embarrassed, but then I realized everyone is like this right now, not just us. You never know when you may need to ask for help but remember it’s okay.” – **Lisa**

“We are here to help people through the hardest times, we always show up when there’s a problem and we have clients who truly depend on us for that” – **Kietha**



**43,301**  
Volunteer Hours



**11,771**  
Volunteers

## Mission Statement

Our mission is to feed the hungry in Baton Rouge and the surrounding parishes by providing food and educational outreach through faith-based and other community partners.



## FIGHTING HUNGER: DIFFERENT WAYS TO GIVE

While we always accept gifts of food and funds throughout the year, there are some unique ways you can donate to the Food Bank that will help support our mission.

### **Below are a few different ways to give.**

- ▶ **Gift of Cash:** The Cares Act of 2020 permits individuals who do not itemize to claim a deduction of up to \$300 for cash contributions made to qualified charities during 2021, while married individuals filing joint returns can claim up to \$600. Those who do itemize can apply an increased limit of up to 100% of their AGI for cash contributions made to qualifying charitable organizations during 2021. \*Usually, individuals who itemize may claim a deduction for qualifying charitable contributions in the range of 20% to 60% of their adjusted gross income (AGI).
  - ▶ **Appreciated Stock:** Appreciated stock makes an excellent gift. You avoid all capital gain taxes, will receive a tax deduction, and can deduct a percentage of your adjusted gross income.
  - ▶ **Bonds, Mutual Funds:** Similar to cash in their tax treatment, these make excellent gifts. State, Municipal, and Government bonds are welcome gifts.
  - ▶ **Bequest Through Will:** One of the simplest ways is to give of your estate. You can make a gift bequest, after others have been provided for, of a dollar amount, specific property, a percentage of the estate, or what is left (remainder) to the organization.
  - ▶ **Gift of Life Insurance:** A simple way to make a significant future gift is to name the organization beneficiary to receive all, or a portion of the proceeds of an existing life insurance policy.
- You will receive a tax deduction for the cash surrender value, thus reducing your tax liability in the year of the gift.
- ▶ **Retirement Accounts:** Retirement Account Funds (IRAs or company plans) beyond the comfortable support of yourself or loved ones may be given (like life insurance proceeds) to the organization by proper beneficiary designation.
  - ▶ **Giving Societies:** Just this past year, three new giving societies were created to give donors more options to participate in our mission. Nourish 365 members are special donors who commit to recurring monthly gifts which allow for us to plan for the year ahead. Our Hunger Action Council members are community minded investors who take a leadership role by making a multi-year financial pledge which can be submitted in annual, quarterly, or monthly payments. The Fraenkel Society was created to recognize supporters who are honoring the Food Bank through an estate provision, beneficiary designation, or life income gift. You need not be wealthy to leave a legacy, as there is no minimum to become a part of this society.
- For more information on ways to give or to schedule an in-person visit with us at the Food Bank, contact Sandy Colvin, Chief Development Officer, at (225) 359-9940.
- \*Consult your tax adviser for official guidance on current tax laws pertaining to contributions and deductions.

# NEW FOOD BANK APP TO GREATLY EXPAND SERVICES



## DOWNLOAD OUR NEW APP.

Download on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

SPONSORED BY



Food insecurity impacts people from all walks of life—especially those who may not have access to a computer or broadband internet at home despite living in a digital world. Because mobile phones are more accessible, mobile apps have become an important avenue for providing information to individuals in need.

The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank with the support of b1BANK has launched a new app to increase access to food resources for those who may only have a cell phone. The app provides information on how to apply for SNAP benefits, upcoming mobile food distributions, resources for agencies and how to apply to become an agency. The Mobile App also provides a direct link to resources for food and programs, as well as information on volunteering, donating, and events.

“The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank recognizes the importance and value of immediate access to urgent and evolving information,” said Mike Manning, President and CEO of the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. “With underwriting provided by our incredible community partners at b1BANK, we are excited to announce the launch of our Mobile App, a new and innovative platform for important updates and resources. Depending on the settings you choose, the Mobile App can send notifications and alerts about information useful to you.”

“We think every day about how we might better utilize technology to make our banking activities more effective. We ought to be thinking the same way about supporting the most vulnerable in our community, and we are proud to partner with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank as they make this kind of high impact investment,” said Jude Melville, president and CEO of b1BANK. “The financial support b1BANK provided to develop and launch the new mobile app is an extension of the close relationship we have developed with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank over the years through hands-on volunteer efforts in the warehouse, food distribution sites, and other activities in the Capital Area. We look forward to using the app to coordinate our volunteer efforts this year.”

Registering for volunteer opportunities through the mobile app is also much easier and more convenient with total access to your volunteer history on the go. You can also find information on how the Food Bank is fighting hunger in the community and make donations right through the app to support those experiencing food insecurity.

To start using our free mobile app, simply download it today from the App Store or through Google Play.

# COMMUNITY FOOD DRIVES DELIVER JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Associated Grocers and Baton Rouge Coca-Cola teamed up with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank to help feed families over the holiday season through the Red Bags Holiday Food Drive.

From November 22, 2021 to December 25, 2021, participating grocery stores offered red, pre-packed Coca-Cola bags filled with non-perishable food that could be purchased for \$10 at checkout. Purchased bags were picked up by the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank to be distributed to families experiencing food insecurity throughout the Food Bank's 11-parish service area in an effort to fight hunger in the community.

With your support, the campaign was able to raise just over \$100,000 which will provide the equivalent of more than 300,000 meals. Thank you to all those who purchased a red bag in support of the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.



BREC's Baton Rouge Zoo and the community celebrated the holiday season with ZooLights. Illuminated displays of animals and traditional holiday icons lined the mile-long trail to light the way through the zoo for visitors.

This was the fourth consecutive year the Zoo partnered with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank to bring impact and excitement to ZooLights. Every guest who brought a non-perishable food item during the hours of ZooLights received a 50% discount from the regular admission price.

In 2021, ZooLights visitors brought in nearly 7,000 pounds of non-perishable food which is the equivalent of almost 6,000 meals! Thank you to everyone who contributed to supporting ZooLights and the impact made in fighting hunger here locally.

**DON'T FORGET TO SHARE THE FUN!  
TAG US IN YOUR PHOTOS**

Use hashtags #BRfamily #BRfoodbank



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PICTURE US  
@brfoodbank



PIN WITH US

In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil right regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in our 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. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g. Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.), should contact the Agency (State or local) where they applied for benefits. Individuals who are deaf, hard of hearing or have speech disabilities may contact USDA through the Federal Relay Services at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: [http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) Mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) Fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) Email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov). This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



United Way Member Agency



Member of Feeding America