



PATH COMMITTEE REPORT Year End/Summer, 2019

On June 30th, Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida concluded its fiscal year 2018-19. During that 12-month span, we are pleased to report that a total of 75 million pounds of groceries were provided to Central Floridians in need through our network of 550 program partners. In addition, our Benefits Connection specialists helped nearly 4,000 SNAP food stamps recipients with their applications, allowing more than \$3 million worth of government support to reach them. Our organization was also instrumental in helping our local federal employees access food during a government shutdown, when many were unable to meet their expenses. Finally, a total of 59 adult students were graduated from our 16-week culinary job training program and placed on the road to self-sufficiency in jobs that had a average starting wage of \$13/hour. A very good—record-setting—year for our mission and for the community who made it possible.



In fiscal 2018-19, more than 43,000 volunteers provided 138,000 hours of service.

As in past years, the summer months have always presented a challenge for low-income families with children. For very tightly strapped families, the addition of even \$100 or \$200 a month in food costs for children at home can be too much. As a result, the shelves of local emergency food pantries tend to empty somewhat quicker than at other times of year. In addition to distributing more food in the summer, Second Harvest Food Bank also provides prepared meals to more than 90 “Summer Break

Spot” sites at community centers and other gathering places for kids in the summer. These meals originate in the Food Bank’s production kitchen, and are sent out daily through a courier service to dozens of meal sites. More than 8,000 meals a day are provided for hungry kids as they play and learn in summer programs.



A few of the more than 8,000 local kids who receive meals from the Second Harvest Food Bank production kitchen at their summer day camps/programs through the Summer Break Spot program.

In other news, Second Harvest Food Bank was extremely proud to have one of our culinary program graduates featured as a speaker at the White House in Washington DC. Johnny Brummit, an employee at the Aloft Hotel in downtown Orlando, was chosen to speak about life-changing job training programs on July 29th. Johnny faced many challenges as a child, and was raised by his grandmother. After a few run ins with law enforcement as a teen, Johnny sought a new path in life. Upon graduating from Jones High School, he entered the Second Harvest Food Bank culinary training program. As a line cook at the Aloft, Johnny has already been promoted in the first six months of employment, and has created new ‘grab and go’ breakfast items for guests in a hurry. He has been offered better-paying jobs in the months since he started, but is saving his wages for an automobile to be able to drive to those locations in the future. Johnny is a great example of lives transformed by knowledge and belief.

(See Johnny’s photo on next page)



Second Harvest Culinary Training Program graduate Johnny Brummit of the Aloft Hotel in front of the White House. Johnny spoke at a presentation with the President and others on community job training programs. He shared the many ways his life has changed for the better.

As always, we are grateful for the important funding received from caring congregation members across the Central Florida Presbytery. Such support helps the food bank continue to provide more food, and to create hope, for thousands each year. Thank you!

Under His Mercy,

Greg Higgerson, CFRE
Vice President, Development

