



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2009

NEWS FROM LOAVES & FISHES

15th Annual Feed the Thousands

More than 2,000 individuals expected to be served a traditional holiday meal on Thanksgiving Day.



It is hard to believe, but Thanksgiving is right around the corner! This year's Feed the Thousands event is set for Thursday, November 26th.

The hot meals will once again be

prepared at four area churches and then distributed throughout the community to our neighbors in need. This Thanksgiving we hope to provide more than 2,000 meals to individuals who ordinarily would not have the opportunity to enjoy a traditional holiday meal.

We invite you to be a part of this collaborative effort! If you would like to get support the event, please consider volunteering to carve turkeys with a group from your work, church or a civic

organization, coordinating a canned cranberry sauce food drive or making a monetary donation toward the purchase of dinner carryout boxes, seasonings, stuffing mix, gloves, aprons, buttery sauce and other supplies for the meal.

For more information, please visit our website, email thanksgiving@loavesandfishesgreenville.org, or contact the office at 232-3595.

Thank you for your support of this special event.

Harvest Reading to Benefit Loaves & Fishes

Some of Clemson University's most honored writers and poets will read in a campus benefit for Loaves & Fishes on Wednesday evening, Nov. 11, at 7:30 p.m. The list of performers includes Keith Lee Morris, Jillian Weise, John Pursley III, John Warner, Neil Conway, Mike Pulley, and Sarah Blackman. The event will take place on campus in the Marshall E. Walker Family Auditorium inside Vickery Hall.

"This benefit is particularly important considering the impact of the recession on the less fortunate

among us in the South Carolina Upstate," said reader Mike Pulley, a poet who organized this year's Writers' Harvest at Clemson. "Please attend and help feed our needy children."

Writers' Harvest readings are staged each year during the holiday season by writers and poets throughout the United States. The benefits were first launched by Share Our Strength, a national organization that works hard to make sure no kid in America grows up hungry. The annual event has a long tradition at

Clemson.

To gain admission to this year's reading, the writers request a donation of canned goods or cash. Checks made out to Loaves & Fishes Inc. will be accepted.

For more information, contact Loaves & Fishes at www.loavesandfishesgreenville.org or the Clemson University English Department at 864-656-3151.

**CLEMSON HARVEST READING:
November 11th at 7:30 PM
Vickery Hall at Clemson**



25 Woods Lake Road, Suite 812
 Greenville, South Carolina 29607
 P: 864.232.3595 | F: 864.235.7722
www.loavesandfishesgreenville.org

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Dear Friends of Loaves & Fishes,

The Spirit of Giving

The holidays are approaching, almost too rapidly this year. There's much talk about how this holiday season will be for struggling retailers and for all the people who have lost jobs and lost work hours, as well as those who are still very worried about their own situations.

Last year we heard many people say they had reviewed their giving habits and decided to make some changes. We had families deciding not to exchange gifts, but instead donate to Loaves & Fishes. The same thing happened with a number of work groups – people who see one another every day, but don't necessarily know what makes a good gift for the person at the next desk. We even had a bridge club and a supper club that decided to make group donations to Loaves & Fishes.

Every dollar in our operating budget translates to \$10.45 worth of retail food value. This represents high quality perishable food that feeds someone who is hungry instead of being thrown away. So when people ask if a small donation, say \$25, really helps, the answer is YES!!! That \$25 becomes \$261.25 worth of food to those who receive donations thanks to Loaves & Fishes.

As we look toward the question often asked at the Thanksgiving table, "What are you most thankful for this year?" we remember our good health, our jobs, our family and friends, and our ability to help others who are not so fortunate. And we give thanks that we can give in some small way so that others will not be hungry this day.

Susan Douglas

Executive Director

**People don't eat in the long run —
 they eat every day.**

- Harry Hopkins



Address Change? We want to stay in touch!

If you have a change of address, please call the office at 232-3595 or email opscoord@loavesandfishesgreenville.org.

Help Us Go Green(er)! If you would prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, please email opscoord@loavesandfishesgreenville.org.



OUR MISSION: Loaves & Fishes meets the challenge of hunger by connecting willing donors of perishable food with local human services agencies that use the food to feed the hungry.

Happy Holidays

On behalf of our staff, board of directors, partner agencies and their participants we wish you a very happy holiday season!

We are so grateful for all that you do!

A Sampling of Recent Food Donations

3,810	<i>lbs of prepared foods from Carolina First Center</i>
879	<i>lbs of prepared foods from Cliffs Corporate Offices</i>
1,738	<i>lbs of meat from Dietz & Watson</i>
1,500	<i>lbs of prepared foods from Fall for Greenville</i>
40	<i>lbs of baked goods from Jersey Mike's</i>
3,417	<i>lbs of prepared foods from Ryan's Test Kitchen</i>
175	<i>lbs of canned goods from XPEDX</i>

Inclement Weather Policy & Safety Tips

Loaves & Fishes office and drivers follow the Greenville County School system for closings due to bad weather. Our closure will be included on the WYFF 4 and WSPA 7 television broadcasts. If you have any questions regarding this policy, please don't hesitate to contact us at 232-3595.

The safety of our volunteers is of utmost importance. If you are not comfortable driving in snow or ice, please don't! We would appreciate a call to the office if you are unable to do your route in

order to do our best in covering it. The message on the phone at the office will keep you informed of our status.

If you do make a rescue in inclement weather, please be careful and follow these safe driving tips:

When rain begins to fall, the roads can get slippery. Increase your following distance and be especially careful while braking on curves and turns.

Avoid hydroplaning by slowing

down. If you begin to skid while hydroplaning, try to regain control of your vehicle. If you can't, release the accelerator and ride it out.

Remove all snow and ice from your car. Clear all windows and don't start driving until your windshield is defrosted.

Remember that bridges, shaded spots, overpasses and turns may remain icy after the rest of the road is clear.

BE CAREFUL OUT THERE!

Holiday Help: Host a Food and Fund Drive

Loaves & Fishes relies on local support to continue to provide hundreds of thousands of meals to those in need in Greenville County. A Food and Fund Drive is a great way teambuilding project for companies, schools, churches and civic organizations.



Loaves & Fishes will arrange pick up of the non-perishable food items collected by your group and can provide you with a final report showing your success. Most needed items include: peanut butter, canned vegetables and fruits, soups and stews and beans.

In addition to food, every dollar raised through your drive enables Loaves & Fishes to provide \$10.45 in retail food value. Last year, we

distributed 989,313 pounds of food to more than 100 emergency food providers in our community. With every \$5 donated, Loaves & Fishes can provide \$52.25 worth of nutritious food.

Food and Fund Drives are fun and easy! **To get started, please go to our website to download the Coordinator's Guide, posters and other helpful tools.**



Loaves & Fishes

25 Woods Lake Road, Suite 812

Greenville, South Carolina 29607

Bringing the Hungry Fresh Food Daily

For the freshest news, visit our website at www.loavesandfishesgreenville.org

Join Our Online Community

Loaves & Fishes is taking the fight against hunger online! In addition to our website and eNewsletter, you can keep plugged in to Loaves & Fishes happenings and raise awareness by joining our new online community:

- **Facebook:** Help raise awareness for hunger relief in Greenville County and South Carolina by joining our Facebook Cause (Bringing the Hungry Fresh Food Daily) or Page and inviting friends to join.
- **Twitter:** Follow Loaves & Fishes on Twitter (loavesfishes) and receive up-to-the-minute information on the state of hunger in Greenville County and how you can help.

facebook

twitter

What's Cooking



Make a difference in the life of a hungry neighbor this holiday season: host a **Food and Fund Drive** with your church or club.



Clemson writers will participate in a **Harvest Reading** in a campus benefit for Loaves & Fishes at 7:30 PM in Vickery Hall.



Feed the Thousands is back! Help a neighbor in need this holiday season by participating with this Thanksgiving program.