

**FEED.
ADVOCATE.
EMPOWER.**

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2015 annual report

OUR MISSION

To lead the fight against hunger in our community

OUR VISION

To end hunger in coastal South Carolina

STRATEGIC GOALS

Maximize the distribution of meals

Turn awareness into action

Strengthen our capacity

**Distribute 21 million meals
by the end of 2016**



Dear Friends,

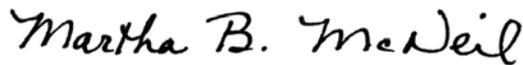
Thanks to your support, 2015 was another record-breaking year at the Lowcountry Food Bank.

We distributed more than 25 million pounds of food, including over 5 million pounds of fresh produce. We served 200,347 individuals, with 47% of those being children and seniors.

As I reflect on 2015, I am proud of the accomplishments achieved through the dedication and hard work of staff, volunteers, donors, partner agencies, board members and community members. However, I know that our work is not done. Until we are able to win the fight against hunger in the 10 coastal counties of South Carolina, we will not rest.

Someone recently asked me how so many people fall through the safety net. My answer was, "we are the net." With a grateful heart, I would like to offer a challenge to our community. How can you help strengthen the net? If you have not visited the Lowcountry Food Bank, please consider taking a tour. We welcome volunteers to join us in fighting hunger in the Lowcountry with a variety of opportunities, ranging from the distribution of fresh produce, to sorting and packing food and more! Financial donations enable us to provide 6 meals for every \$1 we receive. Spread the word of the work we do through the Lowcountry Food Bank and together we will make even greater strides to ensure that our neighbors in need do not go to bed hungry.

Many thanks,



Martha McNeil

2015 Board Chairman



2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Martha McNeil, *Chairman*
Bill Trull, *Vice-Chairman*
Erik Glaser, *Treasurer*
Marcus Luckett, *Secretary*

Tyler Condon, *Morgan Stanley*
Erik Glaser, *Glaser + Company*
William Hogan, *In Heaven I'll...*

David Hood, *The Law Offices of David L. Hood*
Greg Horton, *Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC*
Belinda Hulsey, *Community Partner*
Josh Lamont, *Blackbaud*
Greg Ley, *Wal-Mart*
Marcus Luckett, *Boeing*
Martha McNeil, *Morgan Stanley*
Mark Mizell, *Birchin Lane Realty Advisors, LLC*

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Bill Trull, *Carolina One Real Estate*
Vincent Wallace, *Boeing*
Scott Walsh, *Publix*
Shelley Yuhus, *The Directions Group, Inc.*



Dear Friends,

At the Lowcountry Food Bank, we are committed to leading the fight against hunger across the 10 coastal counties in our service area because we believe that every person should have access to nutritious food. Satisfying this most basic of needs is foundational for proper growth, healthy living, successful learning, and personal dignity.

As I look back on 2015, we surpassed our goal in so many ways and were able to meet so many people whose lives were changed because of the generosity of our community.

I met Gayle and her four children, who lost their home in the “thousand-year flood” that devastated parts of South Carolina, at a distribution in Georgetown. We distributed over 500,000 pounds of food and supplies to families like Gayle’s as part of our flood relief effort.

I met Mary who, at 90 years old and trying to make ends meet on a fixed income, looks forward to receiving her Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) box each month. We distributed over 698,000 meals through our CSFP program in order to support 2,300 other seniors like Mary.

I met Mike, a family-man between jobs trying to support his family, at a congregate feeding site where our mobile client services counselor helped him complete a SNAP application. Through SNAP enrollment assistance, we helped provide over 772,000 meals for people like Mike and his family.

It is only because of the generous support of friends, like you, who share in our dream of ending hunger in the Lowcountry, that we are able to help lift thousands of children, families, and seniors out of food insecurity and provide access to over 21 million nutritious meals that will enable them to learn and live healthy, happy lives. Thank you so very much for your generous support!

My very best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pat".

Pat Walker
President / CEO

In 2015, the Lowcountry Food Bank ...

provided food

to 200,347 different individuals



distributed

5.7 million pounds

of produce



distributed more than
25 million

pounds of food to a network of more than 300 food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters across coastal South Carolina



gave 109K

food-filled weekend backpacks to children in need through our Backpack Buddies program



provided 204,633 nutritious
meals

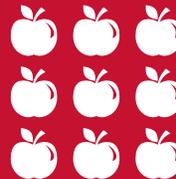
to children in need through more than 30 Kids Cafe afterschool program sites



distributed a total of

3.6 million

pounds of USDA food commodities



purchased and distributed more than

331,714

pounds of produce through our Growing Food Locally program

33,000 clients
reached through Nutrition Education



FEED. Responding to a Disaster

In October, battering rain inundated the South Carolina coast and caused the “thousand-year flood.” The devastation to our community was widespread. Families were displaced, and many of them witnessed too much loss. Many families in the Lowcountry struggle to find regular access to nutritious food, so natural disasters, such as the historic flooding in South Carolina, put adequate nutrition further out of reach for those in our community who struggle with hunger and forced others who have never needed food assistance before to seek help.

“The Lowcountry Food Bank relies on partnerships with schools, faith-based organizations, other nonprofits, and various community partners to help reach children and families in need both during disaster relief and beyond.”

-Pat Walker, LCFB President & CEO

Following the flood, one of our local elementary schools was turned into a Red Cross shelter. During one of our meal distributions there, we met Jordan and his mother, Janice. The family lost everything – clothing, toys, pets, and even their home. At the shelter, the family

received much needed assistance, including food. Jordan, a diabetic, needed stability in his food intake so that he would not experience headaches and stomach pain. During and after the flood, the Lowcountry Food Bank provided Jordan with nutritious meals that enabled him to remain healthy while his mother worked tirelessly to rebuild their lives.

The response from the community was extraordinary. Everyone came together to support individuals in need. “We were proud to be a part of the flood relief efforts. The Lowcountry Food Bank relies on partnerships with schools, faith-based organizations, other nonprofits, and various community partners to help reach children and families in need both during disaster relief and beyond,” said Lowcountry Food Bank President and CEO, Pat Walker.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, the Lowcountry Food Bank was able to provide assistance to families who were impacted by the flooding.



For more information about our programs, contact our VP of Community Initiatives, Erin Fisher, at 843.747.8146 ext. 148 or efisher@lcfbank.org.



For more information on how the Lowcountry Food Bank advocates for our clients, contact getinvolved@lcfbank.org.

ADVOCATE.

Supporting our Seniors in Coastal South Carolina

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is a USDA nutrition program that offers monthly nutritious foods to income-eligible senior citizens at no cost. The packages are designed to meet seniors' unique nutritional needs. Nutrition assistance helps at-risk seniors and their families stretch their budgets to ease the burden of choosing between buying food and paying for other necessities, such as medicine, rent, and utilities.

Seniors, like Donna, rely on CSFP to keep food on their tables. Donna provided for herself throughout her life. Not just herself – she raised six children, worked full time, and never once had to ask for help. She spent years selling rugs she wove and spun, and for a long time it provided her with enough money to meet her needs. But when the recession hit, people no longer had money to purchase extra items, so Donna's sales were reduced dramatically. It's been hard to recover since then.

Donna sought assistance and found out about the CSFP program. "It's not easy to admit you need a helping hand when you've lived an independent life for decades. But if there's one thing I've learned from visiting the food pantry, it's that I'm not the only one who

struggles. There are so many people going through the same things I am, and everybody – in one way or another – has rough times. It's very, very comforting to know that I have my friends at the food pantry to help lift me up when I fall and enable me to not only get through – but also enjoy – my golden years," said Donna.

"It's not easy to admit you need a helping hand when you've lived an independent life for decades. But if there's one thing I've learned from visiting the food pantry, it's that I'm not the only one who struggles. There are so many people going through the same things I am, and everybody – in one way or another – has rough times."

– Donna, LCFB client

CSFP is funded at a set level annually and cannot serve all eligible seniors. This is why we advocate on behalf of people like Donna, people who never expected to experience hunger, people who never expected to need help.

EMPOWER. Giving our Clients the Tools they Need

April was at a low point in her life when she heard about the Lowcountry Food Bank. After her divorce, she moved her four children to Charleston to make a fresh start because she heard that Charleston was booming. The jobs she found paid so little that she just could not make ends meet.

“Getting SNAP benefits were a godsend once they came.”

– April, LCFB former client

April found out that the LCFB helps people apply for SNAP, so she came in to submit an application. She also got a bag of food and a list of pantries in her area so she and her children wouldn't go hungry while she waited for her application to be processed.

SNAP was a lifesaver for April. It gave her a bit of breathing room, and she even found a way to save a little money. She started making household items for her family, including soap made from all-natural ingredients. Her friends and neighbors told her she could sell her soap and turn it into a great business. Because she

had extra help from SNAP, she had time to write a plan and find markets for her soap. She started to drum up business.

With a lot of hard work and that extra support, April was able to take care of her family with her own small business and no longer needed SNAP benefits. April now employs several people and makes it a priority to pay them a living wage. She doesn't want her employees to have to rely on government assistance.

April hasn't forgotten about SNAP and what it did for her. In early 2016, she came back to the Lowcountry Food Bank. This time, though, she came to donate soap to help people in need. “Everyone deserves to eat,” she said, “and everyone deserves to be clean. I can't even imagine having to explain that to anyone. When you've experienced it, I suppose you have a different mentality.”

Most people who receive SNAP are like April. They don't want to be in the situation they're in; they just need help to get back on their feet. When you think about SNAP, think about April. Today's SNAP recipient could be tomorrow's small business owner.

**You can find April's soaps at
www.oldwhalingcompany.com**

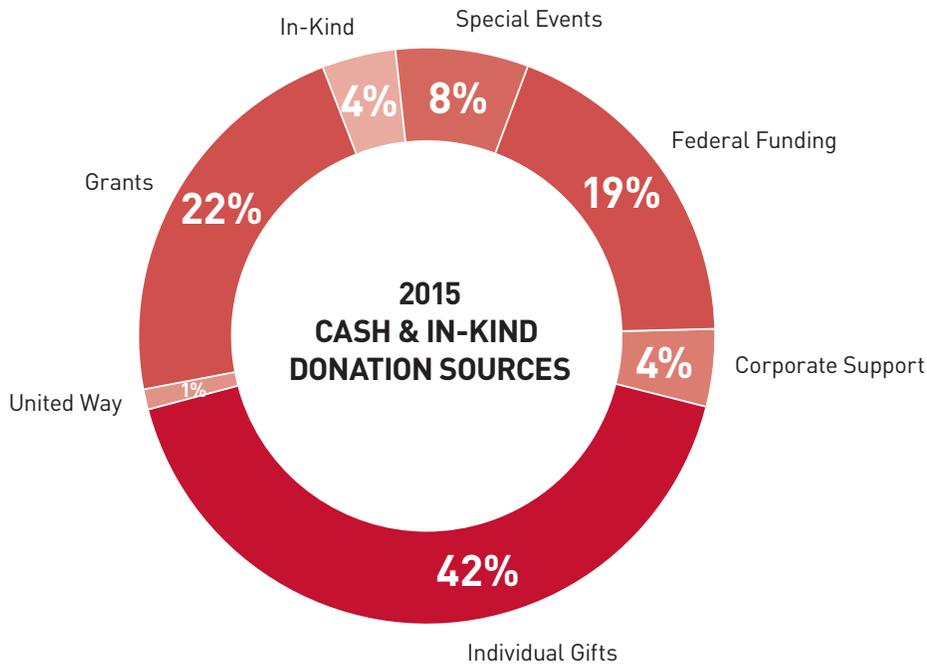
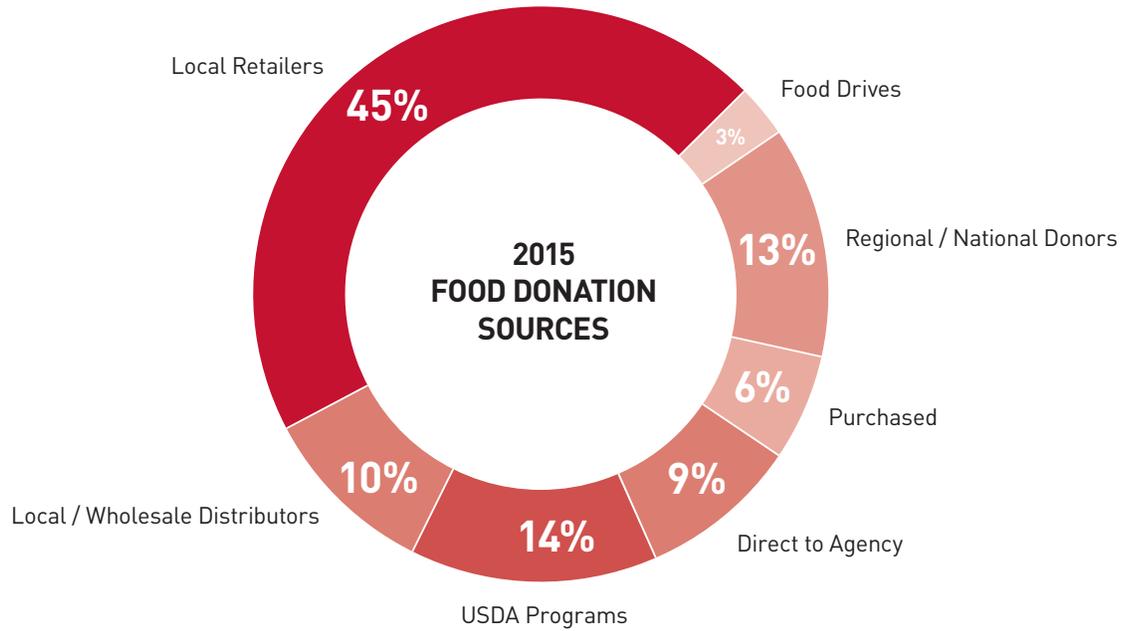


**For more information,
contact our Client Services
Coordinator, Sydney
Singhass, at 843.747.8146.
ext. 103 or [ssinghass@
lcfbank.org](mailto:ssinghass@lcfbank.org).**

FINANCIALS

DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2015

	2015	2014
SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Donated Inventory	\$ 39,596,709	\$ 36,543,801
Grants and contributions	4,341,792	3,332,627
United Way affiliates support	85,661	93,741
Gifts in kind	233,611	245,635
Special events	490,364	425,371
Program fees	1,338,262	1,034,837
Rental income	134,370	155,745
Miscellaneous income	11,525	18,799
Interest income	1,909	1,763
Gain on sale of assets	<u>3,000</u>	<u>0</u>
Total support and revenue	\$ 47,601,280	\$ 43,176,303
EXPENSES		
Food distribution	45,340,646	42,173,526
Management and general	721,728	618,520
Fundraising	<u>807,170</u>	<u>669,962</u>
Total Expenses	46,869,544	43,462,008
Change in net assets	\$ <u>731,736</u>	\$ <u>(285,705)</u>
Net Assets, beginning of year	\$ <u>7,235,246</u>	\$ <u>7,520,951</u>
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 7,966,982	\$ 7,235,246



**Thank you to
all of our 2015
donors!**

GET INVOLVED

VOLUNTEER



We need your help! Opportunities include food sorting, meal preparation, packing for child and senior programs, special events, administrative duties, and community distributions. To learn more, email volunteer@lcfbank.org.

FEED



Thousands of pounds of food are collected each year thanks to community support! Host a food drive in your neighborhood, office, church, or school. Take part in our virtual food drive by visiting lowcountryfoodbank.org. To learn more, email fooddrives@lcfbank.org.

DONATE



Every \$1 creates 6 meals! Individual giving, corporate matching programs, and program and event sponsorships are just a few of the ways to make a difference. To learn more, email donors@lcfbank.org.

ADVOCATE



Learn about hunger in our community and educate others! Visit any of our three locations and learn more about how you can educate others regarding the issue of hunger. To learn more, email getinvolved@lcfbank.org.

97%

Ninety-seven percent of your charitable dollar is spent on direct programs and services, with only three percent going towards management and fundraising.



★★★★
CHARITY NAVIGATOR
Four Star Charity

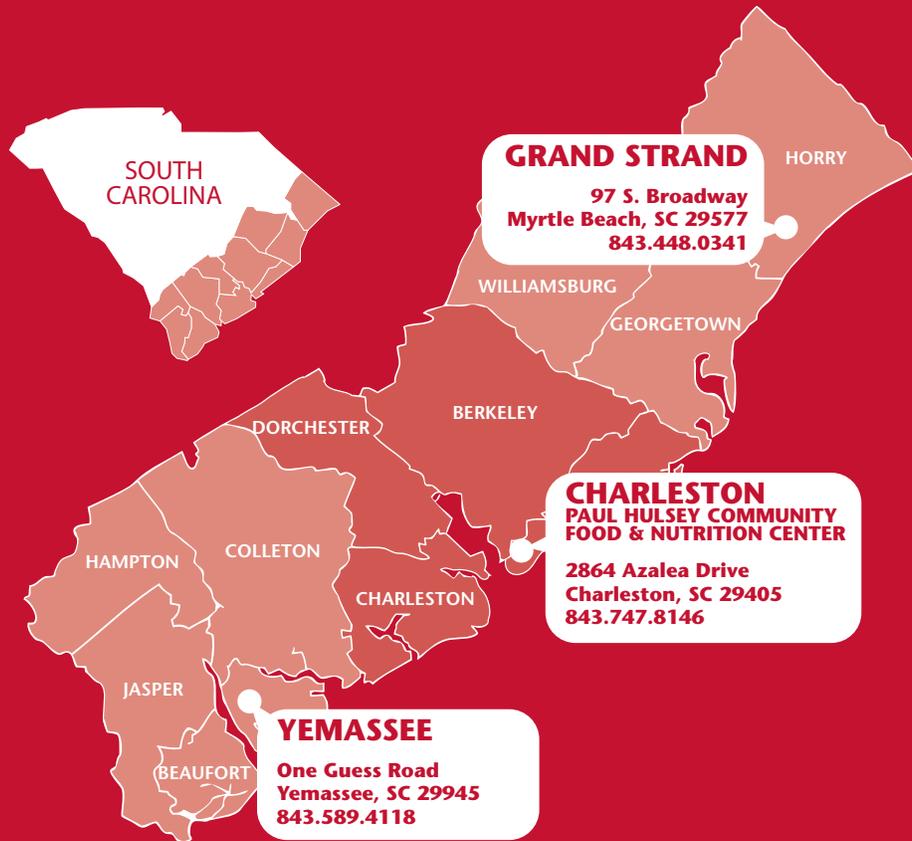
In 2015, the Lowcountry Food Bank received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator — the highest designation possible. Charity Navigator rates nonprofit organizations based on financial health, organizational efficiency, and organizational capacity, and the four star rating means that ...

“the Lowcountry Food Bank exceeds industry standards and outperforms most charities in its cause.”



32 YEARS

OF FIGHTING HUNGER IN THE LOWCOUNTRY



CHARLESTON 2864 Azalea Drive | Charleston, SC 29405 | 843.747.8146
YEMASSEE One Guess Road | Yemassee, SC 29945 | 843.589.4118
MYRTLE BEACH 97 S. Broadway | Myrtle Beach, SC 29577 | 843.448.0341

www.lowcountryfoodbank.org |   

