

**FEED.  
ADVOCATE.  
EMPOWER.**

NO  
FOOD  
FOR  
ALL



2014 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**

**Increase our meal distribution to  
21 million annually by the end of 2015**



# Dear Friends,

As the incoming Board Chairman for 2015, it is an honor to lead an organization that strives to end hunger in Coastal South Carolina. Conquering hunger in our community is a lofty goal and one that requires the teamwork of our dedicated staff, visionary board, diligent network of partner agencies and the support of individual donors, corporate sponsors and volunteers.

Thanks to your support, 2014 was a record-breaking year: we distributed more than 20 million meals; the Summer Feeding program grew by 350%, serving 1,110 children; the construction of the Food Welcome Center is improving the processing of food donations; and a new truck dedicated to our produce initiative is getting more nutritious food to our community.

Distributing more nourishing food continues to be the key to building a hunger-free and healthier community. We know that eating more fruits and vegetables reduces the risk of illnesses such as heart disease and diabetes. Distributing food that prevents our friends and neighbors from going to bed hungry and improves their health is a winning solution.

I began my relationship with the Food Bank as a warehouse volunteer, sorting food donations and preparing them to be sent to partner agencies. My time in the warehouse caused me to reflect upon the great need in our community. What would it be like if 20 million meals had not been available to children, seniors, families and individuals experiencing food insecurity and hunger last year?

We pledge to continue to work diligently to ensure that everyone in Coastal South Carolina has access to adequate and nutritious food. With your help, we will continue to serve others until we win the battle against hunger.

With gratitude,

*Martha B. McNeil*

Martha McNeil

*2015 Board Chairman*





## Dear Friends,

What an honor and privilege it is to witness the continued growth and reach of the Lowcountry Food Bank. Thanks to the generosity of our community, support of our food partners and commitment of our partner agencies, we are serving more children, families and seniors than ever before. This overwhelming community support is truly leading the fight against hunger in the Lowcountry!

As we look forward to the year to come, we are excited to stand with our partners and friends to continue working toward our vision – ending hunger in Coastal South Carolina. To do so, we have implemented a strategic plan that will maximize the distribution of meals, turn awareness into action and strengthen our capacity to serve more than 200,000 individuals in our community facing food insecurity. As a member of Feeding America, we strive to help close the national meal gap and to achieve a strategic goal of providing more than 21 million meals annually by the end of 2015.

We are fortunate to have friends, like you, who share our vision of ending hunger in the Lowcountry. Thank you for everything you do to serve those in our community who experience food insecurity.

My very best,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patricia Walker". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Pat Walker

*President / CEO*

## 2014 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Blue, *Chairman*  
Bill Hogan, *Vice-Chairman*  
Erik Glaser, *Treasurer*  
KeWanda Thompson, *Secretary*

Scott Blue, *SC Federal Credit Union*  
Ann Browne, *Human Factor Resources*  
Erik Glaser, *Glaser Duncan*

Bill Hogan, *In Heaven I'll ...*  
Greg Horton, *Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC*  
Belinda Hulsey, *Community Partner*  
Greg Ley, *Walmart*  
Marcus Luckett, *Boeing*  
Martha McNeil, *Morgan Stanley*  
Mark Monaghan, *IQOR*  
Darryl Porter, *C&S Wholesale Grocers*

James "JB" Ryan, *Carolina International Trucks*  
Monica Scott, *College of Charleston*  
Peter Steketee, *Embassy Suites Charleston Area  
Convention Center*  
Rusty Streetman, *BI-LO*  
KeWanda Thompson, *Roper Saint Francis Healthcare*  
Bill Trull, *Carolina One*  
Scott Walsh, *Publix*

# In 2014, the Lowcountry Food Bank ...

**provided food**

to 200,347 different individuals



produced

**223,921 meals**

in our Zucker Family Production Kitchen



distributed a total of

**24 million**

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



**gave 112K**

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



provided 302,264 nutritious

**meals**

to children in need through 22 Kids Cafe afterschool program sites



distributed a total of

**3 million**

pounds of USDA food commodities



utilized more than 4,000 volunteers, providing more than

**26,000 hours of service**



purchased and distributed more than

**265,000**

pounds of produce through our Growing Food Locally program

# FEED. Mobile Distributions Bring Fresh Food For All

The Lowcountry Food Bank's newest way to fight hunger is Fresh For All — a client-choice, farmer's market distribution. A LCFB truck just needs pavement and community support to be able to share 10,000 pounds of local and regional produce with 200 families. The truck stops, the red tents go up and rows of tables overflowing with fresh vegetables are lined up for our clients. This mobile distribution means that our neighbors in both rural and urban areas can access healthy foods that are often hard to access.

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**“[Fresh For All] is such a positive and helpful program for our community.”**

**– Rolets Buckner, Saints Center Ministries in Walterboro**

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Fresh For All distributions aren't just an efficient way to reach our goal of distributing 5.5 million pounds of fresh produce a year, they are bringing the community together around healthy foods. “It's such a positive and helpful program for our community,” says Rolets Buckner, an Event Organizer with Saints Center Ministries in Walterboro. “We serve 250 to 300 people when the Fresh For

All comes out. I appreciate that because we have so many senior citizens and even middle aged people who are struggling.” In 2014, the LCFB distributed more than 300,000 pounds of produce to 20,360 individuals, including more than 7,000 children.

Fresh For All produce is vital to keeping our community healthy. Armed with hand-picked produce, families go home prepared to enjoy foods they may otherwise not have been able to access. “The variety of fresh fruits and vegetables is great, especially butternut squash which most clients would never buy,” says Kasanda Harrison, Director of the Marion Missionary Baptist Church in Salters. “They had a table with little samples of butternut squash and recipes. People are still talking about that.”

In 2014, the LCFB held 33 distributions throughout the Lowcountry and will host 52 distributions in 2015. Thanks to you, a Lowcountry Food Bank truck can park just about anywhere in the Lowcountry and create a farmer's market where food insecure families can enjoy the simple act of choosing fresh vegetables.

One of the Lowcountry Food Bank's strategic goals for 2015 is for 21% of our distributed food to be produce — an increase from 18% in 2014.



**For more information,  
contact the Lowcountry  
Food Bank Procurement  
Director, Margaret Grant,  
at 843.747.8146 ext.109  
or [mgrant@lcfbank.org](mailto:mgrant@lcfbank.org).**



A team of more than 60 dedicated volunteers makes the LCFB's nutrition programming possible. Of the 23 Cooking Matters classes held in 2014, 15 were run completely by volunteers!

For more information, contact the Lowcountry Food Bank Nutrition Educator, Dana Mitchel, at 843.747.8146 ext. 122 or [dmitchel@lcfbank.org](mailto:dmitchel@lcfbank.org).

# ADVOCATE. Nutrition Education, a Key Element to Fighting Hunger

The ties between food insecurity and adverse health risks are undeniable. More than 78% of the Lowcountry Food Bank's clients purchase inexpensive, unhealthy foods to cope with a lack of food; nearly half of the households served by the LCFB have members with diabetes and a startling 70% of households have members with high blood pressure.

"By advocating on a national level for those who experience hunger, in partnership with organizations such as Share Our Strength and Feeding America, we are improving outcomes for our neighbors here in the Lowcountry," says Pat Walker, LCFB President and CEO. "Nutrition education is a critical part of that equation."

To empower low-income families, children, and adults with the knowledge and skills to prepare healthy and tasty meals on a budget, the LCFB is utilizing Share Our Strength's Cooking Matters curriculum to educate the community. The 6-week course assists low-income families in stretching their food budgets so they can make healthy meals at home. Participants learn to shop smarter, use nutrition information to make healthier choices, and prepare meals that are delicious

and affordable. Cooking Matters has been featured in First Lady Michelle Obama's Let's Move! Campaign and recognized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture for excellence in nutrition education. The course also teaches families how to maximize the benefits they receive through public nutrition programs like SNAP.

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**"It's more than just feeding people. It's about giving people the tools that will empower them."**

**– Pat Walker, LCFB President / CEO**

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In 2014, your support meant that together we could reach more than 12,000 people through Nutrition Education courses, events, and tours through agencies and program partners in Charleston, Berkeley, Dorchester, Horry, Jasper, Williamsburg, and Colleton counties, including a 91% graduation rate from Cooking Matters courses. Thanks to your commitment to our clients' health, Nutrition Education is contributing to the long term fight against hunger.

# EMPOWER. Agency Pantries Provide the Power of Choice

The client choice pantry method is exactly what it sounds like – allowing clients to choose the food they take home. This increasingly popular approach empowers our neighbors who experience hunger through the power of choice and access to healthier food items.

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**“If we know that a client has nowhere to live, we can still serve them.”**

**– Carole Beacham, Pantry Coordinator,  
Helping Hands of Myrtle Beach**

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Catholic Charities in Conway finds that a focus on nutrition, education and choice creates a positive experience for clients and volunteers alike, while cutting down on waste. The pantry uses a color coded system to encourage a client’s choice of more nutritious foods, and their volunteers are essential to a good client experience. “We have volunteers in a set schedule so they are always here on the same days and times. Our clients see the same people and they get to know one another. That familiarity makes for a good experience,” says Catholic Charities’ Client Advocate Michele Borbely.

Their clients agree. “Mainly I get foods and I don’t always know what to do with them. This system makes sense,” says Paul, who is grateful to be served at Catholic Charities.

Not far away, Helping Hand of Myrtle Beach is taking a different approach to serve people who are often under served – those in the Grand Strand who experience homelessness. Their clients fill out a checklist choosing the food they will receive from Helping Hand’s pantry. “If we know that a client has nowhere to live, we can still serve them. It’s as simple as making sure their choices include cans with pop tops, some pre-prepared foods, and cutlery or a can opener with their food,” says Carole Beacham, Helping Hand of Myrtle Beach’s Pantry Coordinator.

By working with partner agencies to strengthen their capacity, we strengthen our network’s ability to serve our friends and neighbors throughout the Lowcountry. Your commitment to feeding others allows us to work with our partners to improve the resources available to those who need your help. More and more of our clients are able to make good choices because you make the choice to join the fight against hunger.

The LCFB partners with more than 300 agencies across the 10 coastal counties. Together, this network serves the unique needs of our community.



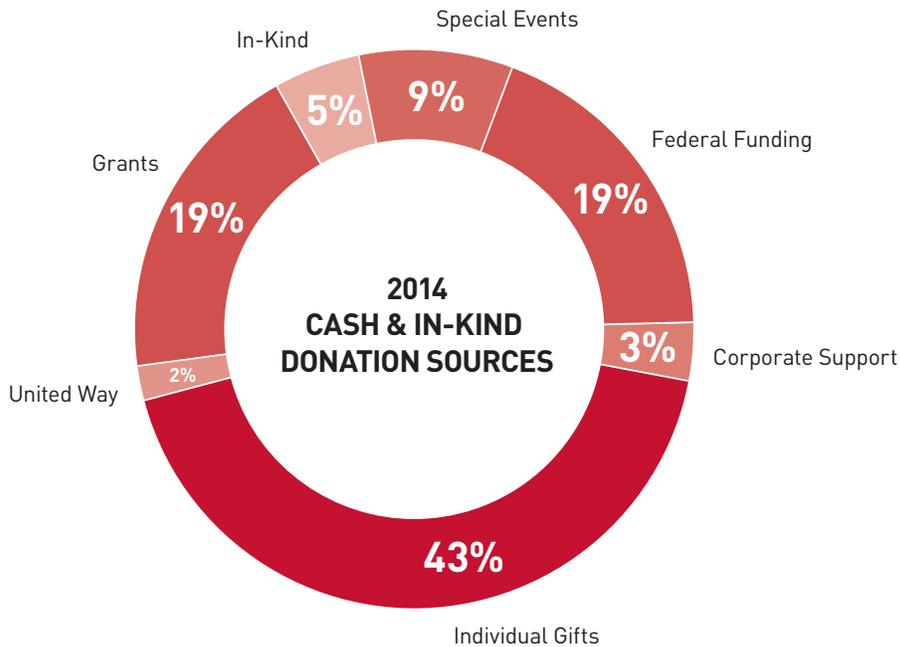
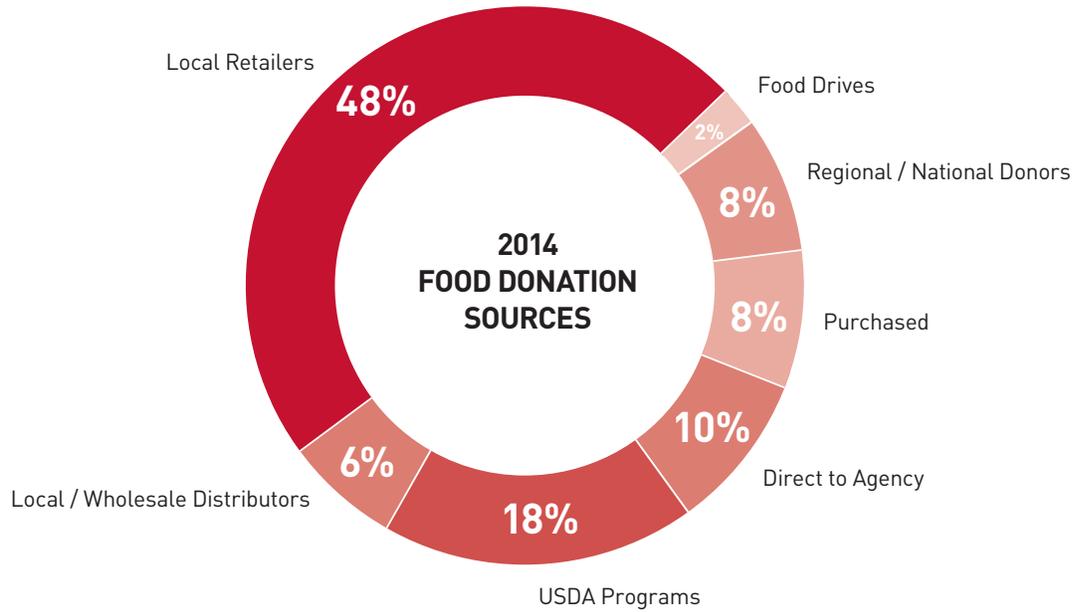
**For more information,  
contact the Lowcountry  
Food Bank Director of  
Agency Relations, Joanna  
Bruno, at 843.747.8146 ext.  
115 or [jbruno@lcfbank.org](mailto:jbruno@lcfbank.org).**

# FINANCIALS

DECEMBER 31, 2013 AND 2014

	2014	2013
<b>SUPPORT AND REVENUE</b>		
Donated inventory	\$ 36,543,801	\$ 30,396,175
Shared maintenance revenue	1,323,984	1,252,767
Grants and Contributions	3,332,627	3,291,735
United Way affiliates support	93,741	107,342
Gifts In kind	245,635	86,725
Special events	425,371	354,399
Program fees	1,034,837	888,915
Rental Income	155,745	169,988
Miscellaneous Income	18,799	31,529
Interest income	<u>1,763</u>	<u>1,784</u>
<b>Total unrestricted support and revenue</b>	<b>\$ 43,176,303</b>	<b>\$ 36,581,359</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Food distribution	\$ 42,173,526	\$ 34,775,067
Management and general	618,520	749,549
Fundraising	<u>669,962</u>	<u>609,349</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>43,462,008</b>	<b>36,133,965</b>
<b>Change in net assets</b>	<b>\$ <u>(285,705)</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>447,394</u></b>
<b>Net Assets Beginning of Year</b>	<b>\$ <u>7,520,951</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>7,073,557</u></b>
<b>Net Assets, End of Year</b>	<b>\$ <u>7,235,246</u></b>	<b>\$ <u>7,520,951</u></b>

THE LOWCOUNTRY FOOD BANK'S FINANCES ARE AUDITED EACH YEAR BY DIXON HUGHES GOODMAN, LLP. FOUNDED IN 1932, DIXON HUGHES GOODMAN IS AN INDEPENDENT, CERTIFIED ACCOUNTING SERVICE OPERATING IN 12 STATES ACROSS THE SOUTHEAST. TO REQUEST A COPY OF OUR LATEST AUDIT, PLEASE CALL 843-747-8146.



**Thank you to  
all of our 2014  
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](mailto: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](http://lowcountryfoodbank.org). To learn more, email [fooddrives@lcfbank.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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

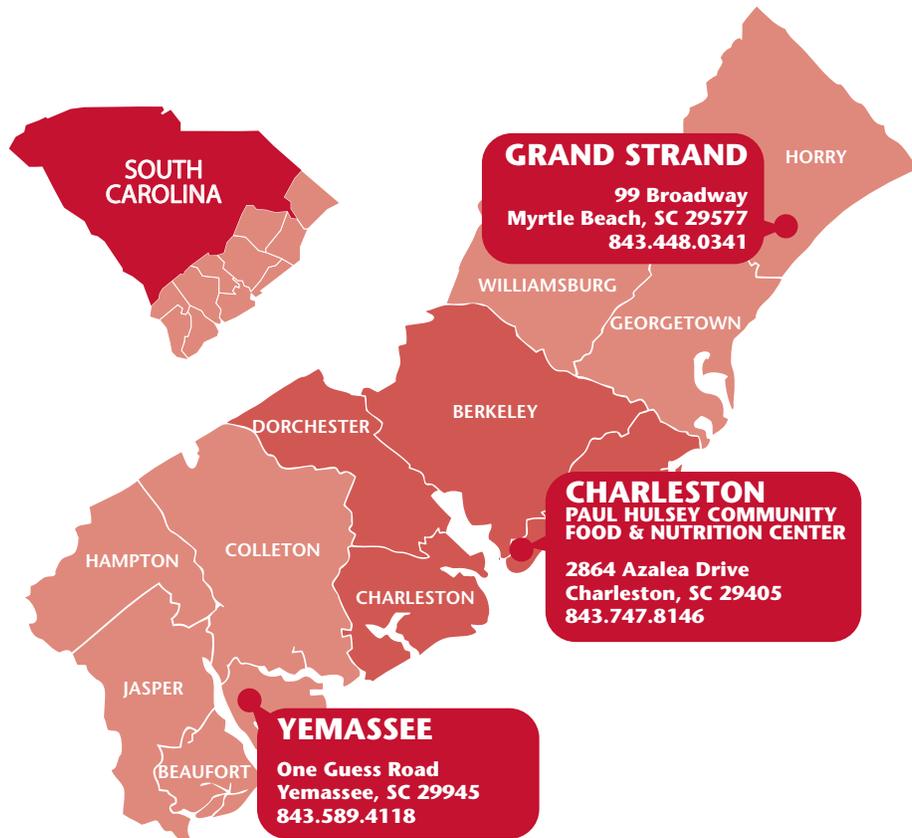
In 2014, the Lowcountry Food Bank received a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator — the highest designation possible. Charity Navigator rates nonprofit organizations based on financial health, organizational efficiency, and organizational capacity, and the four star rating means that ...

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



# 31 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** 99 Broadway | Myrtle Beach, SC 29577 | 843.448.0341

[www.lowcountryfoodbank.org](http://www.lowcountryfoodbank.org) |  

