



# Feeding Hope



## Support from Local Athletes

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee distributed 38,000 pounds of food to about 550 families during one of our holiday distributions at Tabernacle Baptist Church on Thursday, November 13th, 2025.

Our food bank would like to give a **big thanks to University of Tennessee football stars Chris and Colin Brazzell**, as well as their parents, for raising both awareness and financial support for this distribution.

**“Being able to give back to the community means a lot to me,”** said Chris Brazzell.

Those who attended the distribution received Thanksgiving ingredients, including turkey, stuffing mix, cranberry sauce, canned yams, and fresh apples, as well as potatoes, onions, carrots, and oranges.

“Second Harvest is incredibly thankful to the Brazzell family for supporting this effort,” said Elaine Streno, CEO of Second Harvest. “Being able to give back to the community means a lot to me,” said Chris Brazzell.

But the Brazzell family aren’t the only athletes getting involved —

the **Knoxville Smokies** visited our warehouse to pack boxes with canned goods in an effort to kick off a food drive at their stadium this past season.

We are grateful to local athletes for using their platforms to support food security and encouraging their fellow players to do the same!



*Knoxville Smokies players fill boxes with canned goods in our warehouse.*

# Ensuring our neighbors don't have to choose between 'heat' or 'eat'

## A Message from Elaine

With the demand greater than ever due to the recent government shutdown, it was truly inspiring to see our community pull together to help make Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday meals a reality for so many of our neighbors.

During the government shutdown, we prepared additional emergency & Mobile Pantry food boxes, and supplied each of our Partner Agencies with additional cases of key kitchen staples, such as peanut butter and shelf-stable milk.

**Times of crisis are what your food bank is here for.** Thank you for standing with us!



Elaine Streno, CEO of Second Harvest.

## Tell Me Something Good

Recently, Target of Turkey Creek experienced an unexpected outage, causing their freezer system to go down. With tons of food at risk of going to waste, **Target turned to our Food Rescue program before it was too late.** In doing so, they donated nearly 30,000 pounds of food, helping to provide thousands of meals to those in the surrounding community.

**“We are grateful that Target knew we’d make certain this food wouldn’t go to waste,”** said Ruth Ivey, our Food Rescue Manager.

We’d also like to thank Thermo King for stepping in to help us distribute the food to several of our Partner Agencies in Knox County, such as FISH Hospitality Pantry and Wesley House Community Center!

“We are grateful that Target knew we’d make certain this food wouldn’t go to waste,” said Ruth Ivey, our Food Rescue Manager.

To learn more about Food Rescue, please visit [SecondHarvestETN.org/programs](https://SecondHarvestETN.org/programs).



Thermo King driver distributes recovered Target food to our neighbors.

## Gratitude Corner

We’re extending a big thank you to Delta Dental of Tennessee for their ongoing support. Twice per year for nearly 10 years, Delta Dental of Tennessee has provided **10,000 youth toothbrushes and 2,000 adult toothbrushes for our Food for Kids bags.**



## Recent Updates from Second Harvest Food Bank

### Thanksgiving Distribution

On November 19th, 2025, we **distributed items for a traditional holiday meal** along with other shelf-stable goods, fresh produce, and frozen turkeys at our annual Thanksgiving Distribution in Knox County.

We would like to thank Stand Out For Good, Inc. for supporting this distribution, and PYA Waltman Capital, for their continued assistance.

“This is just one example of the more than 200 Mobile Pantries we operate each year across our 18-county service area, delivering 2.36 million pounds of food to those in need,” said Elaine Streno, CEO of Second Harvest.

Second Harvest provided food to 800 families at this Thanksgiving Distribution in a drive-thru format. For more information on our Mobile Pantries, head to our website at [SecondHarvestETN.org/programs](https://SecondHarvestETN.org/programs).



Volunteers from Stand Out For Good, Inc. hand out produce boxes at our Thanksgiving Distribution.



Kristi Rule, Chief Development Officer for Second Harvest, welcomes guests to our first Planned Giving Lunch and Learn for our A.R. Johnson Legacy Society.

### Lunchin’ and Learnin’

On October 28th, 2025, Second Harvest hosted our first Lunch and Learn, in collaboration with PYA Waltman Capital, for our Planned Giving Society — the A.R. Johnson Legacy Society.

Guests enjoyed socializing with fellow community members over lunch, and were presented with numerous **tips on how to make an impact today through strategic giving.**

With guidance from PYA Waltman Capital, supporters of Second Harvest have the potential to enjoy tax benefits and meet other financial goals while championing food security in East Tennessee.

For more information on Planned Giving, our upcoming Lunch and Learns, or the A.R. Johnson Legacy Society, please visit our website at [SecondHarvestETN.org/planned-giving](https://SecondHarvestETN.org/planned-giving).

# Future of the Food Bank

## Pack the Bag

No child should have to wonder where their next meal will come from. But right now, more than **15,000 children in East Tennessee rely on our Food for Kids program** to get through the weekends without hunger.

From **February 12th—23rd, 2026**, we're rallying our community for Pack the Bag, a fundraiser dedicated to ensuring that these children receive a weekly bag full of nutritious, kid-friendly food — because no child should go to bed hungry.

These food bags, packed with fruits, dairy, vegetables, grains, and protein, give students the nourishment they need to grow, learn, and thrive. Join Second Harvest Food Bank of East Tennessee in making a difference for children this February.

### Become a Sustaining Partner

If you're not already, below are a few reasons becoming a monthly donor could benefit yourself and the food bank:

- Monthly donors can budget their philanthropic giving more efficiently.
- When revenue is known and dependable, **we can respond quickly in emergencies.**
- A strong monthly program creates a community that is united in purpose.

Learn more by visiting:

**[SecondHarvestETN.org/giving-societies](https://SecondHarvestETN.org/giving-societies)**

# Fight Hunger. Feed Hope.



For more information, please visit **SecondHarvestETN.org**, email **info@SecondHarvestETN.org**, or call **(865) 521-0000** during our business hours: Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.