



SECOND HARVEST, INC.

Second Harvest, Inc. is the signature project of the Rotary Club of Greene and Putnam Counties.

Our mission is to eliminate hunger in Greene and Putnam Counties. We believe that food shortage is a matter of logistics; that is, efficiently using all available resources to acquire excess food and distribute it to those in need.

We started in late 2008 by identifying places where we could “rescue” excess food. Our first official pickup was at our local Ritz-Carlton and that food was taken to a local battered women’s center. We then started twice weekly pickups at Publix. Both of those donors continue to be the mainstay of our regular pickups.

A dedicated group of volunteers, including many non-Rotarians, facilitate these weekly activities and we have done over nine hundred (900) pickups since inception, rescuing over 140,000 pounds of food.

We currently deliver foods to the local food pantry in Greensboro, Penfield Christian Outreach (a drug and alcohol rehab facility), Putnam Christian Outreach (serves the needy of Putnam County), New Springfield Baptist Church (helping out a needy parish) and the Circle of Love (battered women’s shelter).

In late 2010, we became an accredited partner with Golden Harvest, a food distribution agency of the Feeding America program. This allowed us to acquire food for regular monthly distributions which take place the third Saturday of each month. To date, we have delivered over 775,000 pounds at these distributions.

These events cost us \$1,500 per month, monies that we are fortunate to raise the old fashion way...begging. We enjoy the monetary support from some incredibly generous people and from grant monies from local businesses.

Again, volunteers are a critical part of this program and we are fortunate to be able to engage students from the Greene County High School (ROTC, Beta Club), Elks Lodge and Rotary members, area churches and locally involved businesses and residents.

We also provide deliveries of pantry foods to people that are unable to get to the pantry for monthly pickups. Finally, a backpack program takes care of twenty-five needy children every week and we are endeavoring to expand it in the next school year.