

TRYING TO KEEP THE HOPE GOING



With Jamillah's warm smile and easy laugh, it feels as if you have known her for a long time. The conversation flows easily - about her niece's favorite foods, caring for an ill parent and when it comes to talk of family and responsibility - so do the tears.

"We're in the midst of some chaos but I told myself I'm not going to panic."

Jamillah works in construction, operating heavy machinery, but a cascading series of setbacks over the last three years - a car accident that left her in a body cast for weeks, traveling back and forth to Georgia to help take care of her ailing father and then an apartment fire, have all taken their toll.

After the fire, she was able to reconnect with one of her best friends from New York, a friend who just lost her husband. They moved in together to share expenses and help one another out.

Then, just last month, she suffered a knee injury and isn't allowed back on the job site until that heals.

"I was really concerned about what I was going to do. I've been trying to keep the hope going, trying to keep a smile on my face around the little one." The "little one" is her nine-year-old niece Naima, who she has raised since she was born. "She depends on me. It's not supposed to make sense to her how the food gets on the table or how the bills get paid. She's a kid."

Jamillah was worried what she was going to do that week about food. Then she was referred to Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays. She, Naima and her friend were able to shop for a week's worth of groceries at the pantry at First Presbyterian Church. She was so happy watching Naima pick out her favorite cereal and mac & cheese.

"She's growing, she eats all the time. She's smart and very good in school and that's the least I can do is feed her and feed her well."

"It helped put my mind at ease that night when I went back to the house and I had food to get us through the week until I could figure out some other things."

When asked what she would say to someone about her experience, Jamillah shared that the one word that comes to mind is **compassion**. "We need to put ourselves in other peoples shoes in everything but especially when it comes to this thing of people having food. **It could happen to anybody at any given time. I know. It helped my family when we needed it most.**"



UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, May 13 – National Association of Letter Carriers Help Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

Wednesday, May 24 - Luncheon of Hope
11:30am - 1:00pm The Fillmore Charlotte featuring Tommy DeCarlo, author of *Unlikely Rockstar – The Tommy DeCarlo Story* and lead vocalist for the band Boston since 2008! Join us for an unforgettable luncheon filled with a lot of inspiration wrapped up with a little rock and roll!

Saturday, August 26 - Tour de Turns Cycling Event
Carmel Rd. Neighborhood Park
Help turn the corner on local hunger!

Visit loavesandfishes.org for all the details!

RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW!

Wednesday, May 24, 2023



LUNCHEON OF HOPE

presented by



featuring
Tommy DeCarlo

author of *Unlikely Rockstar – the Tommy DeCarlo Story* and lead vocalist for the band Boston since 2008



READY TO MEET THE NEED

2022 saw a 38% increase in food insecurity and the first quarter of this year has already been the highest in our 48 year history. Add to that the reduction in March in SNAP benefits (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), a decrease of at least \$95 a month. Approximately 40% of our clients receive SNAP benefits.

There are often misconceptions of who needs help, however many of the people that we serve are actively working but living paycheck to paycheck and they simply just cannot get caught up. With your help, we are ready to meet the need.

In preparation, several of our pantries have extended their hours or added days of operation, are providing client choice shopping for the first time since the pandemic and our warehouse is stockpiling as much extra food as possible. We are putting programs in place and seeking out funding and partnerships so that whether it is providing a week's worth of nutritionally balanced groceries or fresh healthy meals, Loaves & Fishes/Friendship Trays is the ONE answer to anyone's food insecurity needs.

WE HAVE A NEW MAILING ADDRESS! P.O. BOX 680791, CHARLOTTE, NC 28216

Because of your support:

- Home deliveries of groceries have expanded to 4 days a week
- 400 nutritious meals are delivered by 60+ volunteers each weekday
- Our staff social services team has connected over 11,924 neighbors with food and additional community services
- We distributed over 900,000 pounds of fresh produce
- Our online grocery ordering platform, FoodStorm by Instacart, provides the dignity of choice to those unable to shop in a pantry.

THANK YOU!

To get involved visit
loavesandfishes.org/get-involved

3 EASY WAYS TO GIVE

ENVELOPE

check or cash



TEXT

text STOPHUNGER to 44321



ONLINE

visit loavesandfishes.org



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