

Happy MAY from Helping Hands

Happy May friends! We are grateful for the provision to care for 490 families in April. As we all are aware, government cuts and freezes are affecting people all around. From funding freezes that we planned to use to feed families, to decreased donation and food allocations, we are pushing hard to gather all the helping hands we can to care for our community.

First, I'd like to celebrate our volunteers! April held the national volunteer appreciation day, which we turned into a WHOLE week. Volunteers got fresh shirts from our friends at Hipbone Printing, sweet treats from 26-devine catering, and an appreciation party with some trophies and of course FOOD! We are so thankful for the MANY hands that care for our community.



Food: As shared previously, we need to receive around 18,000 lbs of food from our community partners to break even each month. In April, we received 11,800 lbs of food from community partners. **This month, on MAY 10th, you can help with the community wide POSTAL FOOD DRIVE!** Simply leave groceries by your mailbox and the post office will ensure Helping Hands receives that food. We also have donation boxes at the Berkeley County Library in Goose Creek and a new donation box going into the GCPD office.

Funds: If you were wondering, the government cutbacks and funding pauses **have** affected our mission here at Helping Hands. We want to stay ON TARGET with our mission, so we've decided not to purchase any hygiene items until funding has been unpaused. In May we are doing a "MAYDAY food and funds Rally" to prepare the pantry for Summer. Many families don't realize the relief that school cafeteria programs offer their grocery budget, we want to be ready to support these families a little extra this summer! Maybe YOU can help!

The first week of May holds Cinco de Mayo, so Helping Hands has partnered with some local Mexican restaurants to share information and gather grocery cart sponsors, food donations, and new helping hands. To help our **#hungerMAYDAY** push to fill and fund the pantry, you can visit Los Altos on Redbank, La Hacienda & Los Arcos in Goose Creek from Friday 5/2-5/5. They will be happy to fill your Cinco de Mayo dreams and help you make a difference in Goose Creek this month!

Farms: We were able to redirect 577 lbs of produce and bread waste in April to 4 local farms.

Coming up this month:

We continue our bi-weekly **Saturday Initiative** on 5/17 & 5/31. This is a great opportunity to come and find a slower pace and the same assistance. Also, there's room for YOU to lend a hand!



You can find us 5/7 & 5/21 at the Central Creek Park Farmer's

Market from 4-7PM. It's a place where you can learn about our mission, connect and drop off donations!

We LOVE to partner with our community to feed and serve Goose Creek.

- **Help us feed Goose Creek!** Our top 10 is attached to the newsletter as well if you would like to donate food or hygiene items. Top 3 needs: peanut butter, meal kits and hygiene products. As always, we welcome your financial partnership as well. If you'd like to chat more about potential partnerships, please email Niccole Franklin at directorHHGC@comcast.net
- **Help us serve Goose Creek!** If you're interested in serving, check out serving opportunities on our POINT app. <https://pointapp.org/orgs/3352> click on *find ways to volunteer*.
- **Help us care for Goose Creek!** We join hands to care for the community as you tell others about the helping hands we give through resourcing and groceries. We serve the tri county area Monday through Friday from 9-11:15 each day.