

How BJ's Is Helping Feed Communities

Looking around the communities we serve, the need to help hungry people has become more apparent than ever. Feeding America®, the nation's largest food bank network, likes to say that hunger is closer than you know. So in February, 2011, in partnership with Feeding America®, we launched BJ's Feeding Communities Program.

From Club Shelf to Food Pantry

Every morning in every one of our 192 Clubs, Team Members gather unsold food from BJ's Meat, Produce and Bakery Aisles — the fresh essentials most in demand because they can be put to good use immediately. They're much-needed complements to the canned and boxed items so often donated, helping ensure that people in need have access to fully balanced meals.

Then, three times a week, each Club loads the perishable food collected onto trucks from the local Feeding America food bank. The food is rushed to a central warehouse for sorting, then distributed to a wide variety of community hunger-relief agencies and programs such as food pantries, mobile pantries, soup kitchens, children's centers and others. Help for the hungry arrives without delay.



Team Members from the Pineville, NC, BJ's Club load boxes of meat and produce onto a truck from the Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina.

A Case Study In-Club

Susan Prys, General Manager of BJ's in Pineville, NC, was thrilled to help her Club get up to speed on BJ's Feeding Communities Program. "Team Members and Members often asked, 'Why throw that away? People could use it.'" Now, every Team Member has an answer.

At first, the Club's shipments to Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina, their Feeding America partner food bank, were small. But as new procedures became second nature, donations climbed. Soon, they were shipping 20 to 25 boxes every week.

"By the end of July, Second Harvest Metrolina had received 4,176 pounds from Pineville, and almost 14,000 pounds of food from the three Charlotte-area BJ's combined."

— Kay Carter,
Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina

The meat, cheese and produce helped the Second Harvest's 650 partner agencies — including food pantries, eldercare centers

and soup kitchens — feed 100,000 individuals every month.

Now, the program is running smoothly in Pineville and every Club from Maine to Florida. "BJ's Feeding Communities Program gives us the chance to help people who need help feeding their families," says Prys, summing up the pride she and her fellow Club managers feel. "That makes us feel warm inside — it's great to know we're making a difference."

For more about Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina, visit www.secondharvestmetrolina.org.



Tell Hunger to HIT THE ROAD! Like us on Facebook before 12/31/11 and BJ's Charitable Foundation will donate \$1 to Feeding America. Added to BJ's food donations, every dollar increases our ability to feed families! For more information about the partnership, check out BJ's Facebook page. [f](#)