



**LOWCOUNTRY
FOOD BANK**

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Lowcountry Food Bank Celebrates Grand Opening

Charleston, North Charleston and Mt. Pleasant Mayors among attendees at Paul Hulsey Community Food and Nutrition Center grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony

Charleston, S.C. – One year after announcing the public phase of its Growing Forward Capital Campaign, the Lowcountry Food Bank hosted community members and dignitaries at the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony of their new Paul Hulsey Community Food and Nutrition Center. “The journey for a new home has been long and tough, but the generosity of our community has been our beacon of hope once again,” says Lowcountry Food Bank Executive Director, D. Jermaine Husser. “We would not be where we are without the love and unwavering support of our friends and partners. Today, we are so proud to share this amazing facility with everyone who helped to make it possible!”

The grand opening ceremony was held from 2:30-5 p.m. at the newly renovated facility located at 2864 Azalea Dr. in Charleston. The ribbon-cutting ceremony guest speakers included North Charleston Mayor Keith Summey; Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley; Mt. Pleasant Mayor Pro Tem Kruger Smith; Hulsey Law Group partner, Paul Hulsey; Zucker Family representative, Anita Zucker; Benefitfocus President and CEO and Growing Forward Capital Campaign Chairman, Shawn A. Jenkins; and Lowcountry Food Bank Executive Director, D. Jermaine Husser. An invocation and blessing of the building was made by Senior Pastor of Charity Baptist Church, Nelson B. Rivers III. Guests were encouraged to stay for tours of the building and a reception following the ceremony.

The Lowcountry Food Bank’s new home is nearly twice the size of the organization’s old 37,000 square-foot location. Renovations completed during the first two phases of the campaign transformed the former Cameron & Barkley Co. Lighting Center of North Charleston into a facility that holds a warehouse and distribution center to meet the growing needs of the 10 coastal counties the food bank serves. In addition, the new building accommodates a Nutrition Center that supplies in-house agency workshops

and training, a wellness center, a volunteer center for those providing more than 22,000 volunteer hours each year, a Backpack Buddies packing room that enables on-site packing and direct distribution, and a new staff wing for the organization's 33 full-time staff members. The Lowcountry Food Bank distributes more than 10 million pounds of food a year and the new facility will allow distribution to grow to 18 million pounds of food a year by 2013, a projected 93.5 percent increase.

The Lowcountry Food Bank's Growing Forward Capital Campaign is paying for the building and renovations. A third and final phase is yet to be completed at the facility. The Zucker Family Production Kitchen is one of the projects that will be finished during the last phase. Anita Zucker of the Zucker Family thinks that the Lowcountry Food Bank is critical to the community. "The Lowcountry Food Bank provides food, as well as other activities that nourish both the bodies and minds of so many people in our region who are in need."

Growing Forward Capital Campaign Chairman Shawn Jenkins has been a driving force leading the effort to raise funds for the new facility. Jenkins, along with other campaign committee members, has raised over \$4.6 million of the \$5 million goal. With only a little way to go to reach the goal, the Kresge Foundation grant will match dollar for dollar for the balance of the campaign goal; which is just \$400,000. "It is a great honor to raise funds for such a worthy cause," stated Jenkins, President and CEO of Benefitfocus. "We are building a cornerstone to serve the needs of those in the future as we help in the quest to end hunger."

Paul Hulseley of Hulseley Law Group donated \$1 million and the building was named in his honor. Hulseley believes that success carries with it the responsibility of helping those less fortunate. "As a child, I experienced hunger first hand, so I'm especially proud to have helped create this legacy for the community as well as all the hungry people throughout the Lowcountry. I hope this will serve as a catalyst by inspiring others to come forward and likewise make a difference in the lives of others."

About the Lowcountry Food Bank

The Lowcountry Food Bank is a member of Feeding America—the nation's Food Bank Network, the largest provider of emergency food distribution in the United States. The Lowcountry Food Bank serves the ten coastal counties of South Carolina and distributes more than 10 million pounds of food a year. The Lowcountry Food Bank is a clearinghouse for donated food products that are distributed to a network of more than 330 member agencies including soup kitchens, homeless shelters and emergency food pantries. The Lowcountry Food Bank is also committed to educating the public about the problems of and solutions to domestic hunger as well as advocating on the behalf of the hungry in our community.

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