Offering a meal to a person who needs it is an act of kindness. Consistently creating and delivering meals to those who need them shows dedication and a passion for helping others. That dedication is reflected every day in the Hunger Relief kitchen. In the last year, volunteers gave Second Helpings more than 42,000 hours of their time.

Second Helpings marks the milestone of delivering its 7 millionth meal this year. It’s not just the meal we celebrate, it’s what it means. We honor the work of the volunteers at Second Helpings who contribute their time to rescue food, work in the kitchen, deliver meals and the many other tasks that Second Helpings needs to operate smoothly every day.

From the first delivery of 60 meals to Holy Family Shelter in 1998 to the 3,500 meals prepared and delivered now each day, the work volunteers do shows a commitment to something that matters – providing a hot, nutritious meal to someone who needs it.

The 7 millionth meal went to Horizon House, an organization offering services to about 160 of our homeless neighbors every day. Horizon House offers a number of services to its clients, including case management and laundry facilities. There is also an employment program where Second Helpings meals are served.

“While someone is working on a resume or looking for a job, we want them to have a meal so they don’t focus on being hungry,” said Teresa Wessel, executive director of Horizon House.

When they sit down to eat during the employment program, some of the Horizon House clients say they don’t remember the last hot meal they had.

Horizon House is just one of 70 partner agencies of Second Helpings.

In the past year, Second Helpings increased its meal production 20 percent to meet demand and delivered more than 817,000 meals. Still, some agencies report an increase in the number of needy people they serve. That means Second Helpings can expect more growth in the coming year.

Each of those 7 million meals was the result of the entire community coming together to help our neighbors. It’s the enthusiasm of our volunteers, the generosity of our food donors and the caring gifts of financial supporters – each plays a critical role in delivering meals to those in need.

TONIC BALL 12

Tonic Ball XII is set! This year, local bands will celebrate the music of The Grateful Dead, Tom Petty & The Heartbreakers and The Pixies. Tonic Ball XII begins at 7pm on Friday, November 22 in Fountain Square. Three venues will be open – Radio Radio, Fountain Square Theatre and White Rabbit Cabaret.

Learn more about the history of Tonic Ball, and get tickets to this year’s event at www.secondhelpings.org and tonicindy.com.
US Foods is one of the nation's largest food service distributors to restaurants, health care and hospitality facilities, and the company is also the largest food rescue partner for Second Helpings. Twice each week, US Foods in Indianapolis donates thousands of pounds of food. The Second Helpings trucks pick up all sorts of ingredients, from frozen meat to canned goods to dairy products. Some of the products may have damaged packages, but the food is still great. For US Foods, wasting food is not an option. "If we're wasting it, then that means someone else is going without," said Chef Vincent Kinkade, of US Foods in Indianapolis.

Chef Kinkade said that before the partnership his company had no good way to deal with surplus food products, "So, it's a win-win situation for us and for Second Helpings." US Foods has been a Second Helpings food rescue partner for more than 10 years.

JAMESON CAMP

Jameson Camp has been helping children in Central Indiana for 80 years, and this summer Second Helpings helped Jameson Camp. The 100-acre summer camp and year round leadership program teaches kids how to find their personal strengths.

"Seventy-five percent of our kids live at or below poverty level, so camping like this isn't something they usually get the chance to experience," said Dan Shepley, executive director of Jameson Camp.

Each week during summer, there are about 70 kids who check-in for the week-long camp.

This summer, after each day of swimming, learning and playing, all the campers sat down to a Second Helpings meal. Counselors and kids had a hot, nutritious meal and talked about their day.

VOLUNTEER PICNIC

It's a summer tradition at Second Helpings! More than 200 volunteers and guests attended the Volunteer Recognition Picnic on June 4, and the celebration is well-deserved.

For every volunteer hour served at Second Helpings, 20 meals are produced and delivered to those in our community facing hunger.

As a thank you for their hours of service, each volunteer received a Second Helpings fleece pullover donated by Gander Mountain!

In 2012-2013, Second Helpings volunteers contributed more than 42,000 hours to support food rescue, hunger relief and job training programs. Thanks to these volunteers and the hundreds of others who are making a difference in the lives of thousands of people every day.
Where are our graduates now?

**WHEELER MISSION**

The kitchen at Wheeler Mission is bustling. Each day, the kitchen staff serves breakfast, lunch and dinner for their clients who are homeless and in need.

While Second Helpings provides one of those meals each day from the Hunger Relief kitchen, the staff at Wheeler Mission is tasked with creating two more meals with the necessary nutrition that their clients need while they build new lives.

Two of the cooks in the Wheeler kitchen know what it is like to build new lives. They are graduates of the Second Helpings Culinary Job Training program.

One of the cooks is Ivan Dublin, a graduate of Class #68. Ivan likes working in the Wheeler kitchen because he says he has a heart to help people. Ivan began working at Wheeler Mission right after graduation, and he is more than a cook right now. He is also a student in the culinary program at Ivy Tech Community College.

“Second Helpings taught me to work efficiently with a sense of urgency,” said Ivan. As for working at the mission, he says, “It just seemed to be the right fit.”

Ernest Calloway is a graduate of Culinary Job Training class #14, and he has worked in the Wheeler kitchen for several years.

He says before Second Helpings, “I was basically living on the street. I went through the program to try to get my life together.”

Today, Ernest not only cooks meals for the men staying at the mission. He takes time to counsel them about changing their lives.

“I serve the guys and witness and minister to them. I feed them spiritually as well as physically.”

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**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY**

Want to be more involved in the Culinary Job Training program? Interested in making a difference in the lives of one of our Culinary Job Training Program students?

Trusted Mentors, an organization focused on mentoring adults, is partnering with Second Helpings to provide guidance to our students who want additional one-on-one support.

All mentors must be 21 or older, participate in a training class, and complete a background check.

Please contact Shelley Landis at Trusted Mentors at 317-985-5041 for information or to sign up for a training session.
Thank YOU for making Corks & Forks a success!

Many thanks to our friends, volunteers and supporters of Corks & Forks!

On Thursday, April 18th, Second Helpings celebrated its 15th anniversary of transforming lives through the power of food. The event featured tastings from more than 25 chefs from around Indianapolis and more than 80 wines.

With your help, we raised more than $200,000 for food rescue, hunger relief and culinary job training in Central Indiana.

Didn’t make it to Corks & Forks this year? That’s okay. We’re going to do it again! Planning has already begun for a Corks & Forks gala in 2014!