



**Public Media**  
Issues & Voices that Matter

**Commentary  
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**Presented by David Krepcho  
President, Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida**

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Many people today are overwhelmed and frustrated with what seem to be “unfixable” problems or things out of their control. Just look around at the cholera disaster in Haiti, the long-term effects of the Gulf oil spill, wars thousands of miles away, Congressional issues and so many more examples; not to mention our own personal lives. Wouldn't it be great if we could find something we could wrap our hands around and make a difference?

There is a pressing problem that we all can rally around and do something about – hunger in Central Florida. As hard as it is to believe, despite healthy lifestyles that do exist, there is a problem and it's mostly invisible. The ongoing economic situation, unemployment, under-employment and plummeting retirement accounts and property values have all created a perfect storm for emergency food assistance among a large portion of the population. Last year, Second Harvest Food Bank provided enough food for 17 million meals ... not in some third world country or war torn territory, but in Central Florida... it's not enough food, that's a problem. What can you do about it?

Fortunately, there is something we can do about this problem. We can close the gap with your continued community assistance. You can seek out a number of local organizations that could use your support in terms of volunteering, financial assistance or food donations. Second Harvest Food Bank provides food to 600 different organizations in Central Florida; they all need your help. Second Harvest offers you several ideas on how to help, checkout [www.FeedHopeNow.org](http://www.FeedHopeNow.org) for those activities ranging from food drives to volunteering. All designed to provide support for people in need and offering a variety of levels of engagement. People of all ages and walks of life can participate.

Everyone can help; here's one poignant example. One day an elementary school girl named Alli saw some of her classmates dumpster diving. That night, she cried to her mom that they must do something about the situation. Alli came up with a plan and in a few months raised \$5,000 to help start a new Second Harvest Kids Café. To this day, that Café continues to provide thousands of meals to children. Alli's a reminder to all of us – young and old, wealthy or not: each of us can find a way to take meaningful action in the fight against hunger – a problem that *can* be solved.

We can actually make a very tangible impact upon hunger relief because every can of food, every can of soup, box of cereal, volunteer hour or dollar donated translates into one of the most basic needs of every person ...and that's food. Please consider taking action; it's good for Central Florida and it's good for the soul.

I'm Dave Krepcho, president of Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida and feeding the hungry matters!