

Fay Lohr, Helping to Ensure "That None Shall Go Hungry"

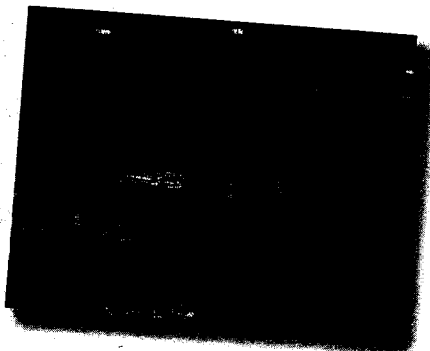
by Libby Carty **McNamee**

Fay Lohr is no stranger to non-profits, having worked with them throughout her career. In her tenure as Chief Executive Officer of the Central Virginia Food Bank (CVFB), she has taken the non-profit to a whole new level of productivity. Her first order of business was to move the headquarters from a small remote warehouse near the airport to a building downtown that 14,000 people see every day from I-95. Along with increased visibility and public awareness, the move also provided precious space to meet the growing demand for food and need for volunteers.

Over the past six years, Fay has led CVFB in a whopping 40% growth spurt, embodying its mission "that none shall go hungry." While CVFB had distributed an admirable 7,000,000 pounds of food annually in their old warehouse, their new facilities handle a booming 12,000,000 pounds. "We owe it all to our reliable volunteers. We literally couldn't do it without them," commented Fay. "Due to our great volunteer program, 96 cents of every dollar of donated food and money goes to feed hungry people." CVFB receives its donated food and money from grocers, the USDA, company and community food drives, and individuals. CVFB then distributes the food through 550 agencies spanning 31 counties and five cities.

Besides its widely known distribution of non-perishables, CVFB also operates the award-winning Kids Café, an after-school meals program for hungry children. "With proper nutrition the kids can learn and grow to be leaders in the future," Faye says enthusiastically.

CVFB plays another role in which Fay takes great pride. Meals on Wheels of Greater Richmond and CVFB are joining together to build a 5,000-square-foot commercial kitchen. "We are building a new Community Kitchen on site that will be operating in a year and will provide 10,000



meals per day for Meals on Wheels, our Kids Cafés and Senior Connections. At present we prepare about 2,000 meals per day." The kitchen will also be available for disasters, and will feature a heavy-duty generator.

Already, CVFB feeds people in crisis. Most recently, CVFB provided meals to Battery Park families displaced due to flooding from Tropical Storm Ernesto.


"I enjoy having a direct impact on the lives of those in need and helping them maintain their dignity," Fay said.

Unfortunately, the food supply at CVFB is precariously low right now due to higher demand, elevated gas prices, and lower end-of-summer donations. However, on Saturday, November 11, the Boy Scouts will collect bags of food door-to-door for CVFB. This drive is the largest of the year, a time to stockpile winter supplies.

For information on drop-off locations, tours, and volunteer information, call 804-512-2500 or log on to www.cvfb.org. **V**

Libby Carty **McNamee** is a local freelance writer who is presently raiding her pantry to fill several bags for CVFB.





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