

Community Impact

Hunger—Mrs. Adams Story

Mr. and Mrs. Adams live in rural Blythewood. Mr. Adams is dying from cancer. “I take good care of my husband,” says Mrs. Adams, “but there’s no food in the house. Our funds are used to buy medications but I couldn’t go for food if I had the money. My husband always did the driving. I can’t drive.”

It is unbelievable to think that our next-door neighbor might be hungry but many are just that—hungry. South Carolina ranks second in food insecurity in the nation. Between $\frac{1}{4}$ (Lexington) and $\frac{1}{2}$ (Richland) of children and youth in our area qualify for free and reduced lunches.

United Way of the Midlands is focused on offering all hungry Midlands area citizens the access to food. A competitive grant allowed Harvest Hope, in partnership with local community and faith-based organizations, to open eight new food pantries and one soup kitchen in rural areas of four counties since 2004.

Because of this new program, Mrs. Adams received an emergency care package. She could concentrate on making her husband’s life more comfortable.

More than 8,484 individuals have been served and more than 61,000 pounds of food have been distributed since the pantries opened. Harvest Hope is demonstrating measurable progress toward meeting national standards that say someone who is without food should be within seven miles of a pantry. The program also builds the capacity of faith and community based organizations to serve in rural areas.

When you give to United Way of the Midlands, it’s an investment in your community...and people just like Mrs. Adams.

United Way of the Midlands is donors, partners and volunteers discovering and responding to the crucial needs of our community—then finding resources to address those needs and following up to make sure the work gets done.

1800 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201
803-733-5400