

Helping Hands feeds Warren County's hungry

BY **LISA HOBBS**
Reporter for the Southern Standard
(McMinnville, Tennessee)

In Warren County, 12.8 percent of the population is food insecure, meaning they don't know where they'll get their next meal. Even more alarming, 22.8 percent of children in Warren County are food insecure.

If those statistics offered by the Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee sound unrealistic, think again.

"We offer a soup kitchen twice a week on Mondays and Fridays," said Helping Hands Ministry of Warren County director Tammy Comfort. "We open at 11:30 a.m. and we seat the first 50. We fill up more often than you would think. A lot of the people who come here aren't homeless. They're the working poor and people living off a monthly check. When all you get is \$700 or \$735 a month, that doesn't go far after you pay rent. It doesn't go far at all."

Comfort says she can



Helping Hands Ministry of Warren County is offering a mobile food drop Sept. 22. Provided are boxes of food thru Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee. The boxes are free of charge on a first-come, first-serve basis until every box has been distributed. Pictured are volunteers organizing a prior drop before the distribution begins.

see the appreciation in their faces and sometimes those expressions turn into words of thankfulness.

"We have a mother and daughter that come into

the soup kitchen," said Comfort. "She said 'we have two good meals a week and I want to thank y'all for that.' The rest of the week they eat bread or crackers or peanut

butter, whatever they can find. It touched my heart."

Along with its Soup Kitchen, the ministry offers additional food in Warren County in partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank. Monthly food boxes are provided to individuals enrolled in the program who meet Second Harvest income guidelines.

Enrollment is based on income to help ensure the effort reaches those individuals who are food insecure

Second Harvest reached a milestone this year. It has been feeding the hungry in Middle Tennessee for 40 years. Since 1978, Second Harvest has grown from 160,000-pound operation to distributing over 32 million pounds of food annually across 46 counties in Middle and West Tennessee.

In Warren County, the organization has also partnered with Families in Crisis, Grace Temple Assembly of God, Kids of the Community, and McMinnville-Warren

County Senior Center to provide food to those in need.

Helping Hands is a nonprofit charitable organization that has been working with Second Harvest since 2013.

"When people ask us what we need here at Helping Hands, it's a financial donation," said Comfort. "We can get food thru Second Harvest to help feed people but we need money to pay our mortgage, electricity, water, or insurance. There are so many bills

that come along with giving away food. Most people have no idea. Our insurance alone is \$352 a month. Sometimes the bills can be overwhelming."

The next open-to-the-public mobile food drop is Sept. 22. It begins at 9 a.m. and is offered in the parking lot of 562 Shangri La lane.

For more information or how you can help, call 931-507-9070 or visit Helping Hands Ministry on Facebook or at www.helpinghandsministrytn.org.

Burt Reynolds, 82, dies

(AP) -- Burt Reynolds, the handsome film and TV star known for his acclaimed performances in "Deliverance" and "Boogie Nights," commercial hits such as "Smokey and the Bandit" and for an active off-screen love life which included relationships with Loni Anderson and Sally Field, has died at age 82.

His death was confirmed Thursday by his agent Todd Eisner.

The mustached, smirking Reynolds inspired a wide range of responses over his long, erratic career: critical acclaim and critical scorn, popular success and box office bombs.

Reynolds made scores of movies, ranging from light-weight fare such as the hits "The Cannonball Run" and "Smokey and the Bandit" to more serious films like "The Longest Yard" and "The Man Who Loved Cat Dancing."

He received some of the film world's highest and lowest honors. He was nominated for an Oscar for "Boogie Nights," the Paul Thomas Anderson film about the pornography industry; won an Emmy for the TV series "Evening Shade," and was praised for his starring role in "Deliverance."

But he also was a frequent nominee for the Razzie, the tongue-in-cheek award for Hollywood's worst performance, and his per-

sonal life provided ongoing drama, particularly after an acrimonious divorce from Anderson in 1995.

He had a troubled marriage to Judy Carne, a romance with Dinah Shore and a relationship with Field damaged by his acknowledged jealousy of her success.

Through it all he presented a genial persona, often the first to make fun of his own conflicted image.

"My career is not like a regular chart, mine looks like a heart attack," he told *The Associated Press* in 2001. "I've done over 100 films, and I'm the only actor who has been canned by all three networks. I epitomize longevity."

Reynolds was candid about his flops, his regrets and about his many famous friends.

He would call posing nude for *Cosmopolitan* one of his biggest mistakes because it undermined the respect he had gained from "Deliverance." He revered Spencer Tracy as an early mentor and came to know Johnny Carson, Clint Eastwood, Frank Sinatra and many others.

Born in Lansing, Mich., and raised in Florida, he was an all-Southern Conference running back at Florida State University in the 1950s. Reynolds appeared headed to the NFL until a knee injury and an auto-

mobile accident ended his chances. He dropped out of college and drifted to New York, where he worked as a dockhand, dance-hall bouncer, bodyguard and dish washer before returning to Florida in 1957 and enrolling in acting classes at Palm Beach Junior

College.

He won the Florida Drama Award in 1958 for his performance in the role John Garfield made famous in "Outward Bound."

He was subsequently discovered by a talent agent at New York's Hyde Park Playhouse.



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