



# Harry Chapin Food Bank OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

**Tee Off for the Food Bank!**  
On Wednesday, May 18, the Harry Chapin Food Bank hosts its Inaugural Golf Classic at Grandezza Country Club. Shotgun start is at 1:30 p.m. Call 334-7007 x137 or sign up today at [HCFBGolfClassic@yahoo.com](mailto:HCFBGolfClassic@yahoo.com)!

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## \$215K from Hunger Walk!

The 3rd annual WINK News Feeds Families Hunger Walk raised \$215,000, far in excess of projections, for a value of \$1.3 million in food and services. **Much more on page 3...**

## Food Insecurity Hits Children Hardest

Numbers don't lie, especially when they're about children who are hungry.

Food insecurity — the lack of access to enough food to fully meet basic needs — is never good. What's worse is the finding from a United States Department of Agriculture 2010 study: food insecurity in households with children here in Southwest Florida is higher than the national average.

Nationally, 21.3 percent of all households are food insecure, compared to **Charlotte County: 29.6 percent; Collier: 24.1 percent; Glades: 27.6 percent; Hendry: 30.3 percent; and Lee: 28.2 percent.**

The Harry Chapin Food Bank, through 170 area agencies, distributed 3.9 million more pounds of food to children in 2010 than 2009. More than 90,939 children (63 percent of all children here) take part in free and reduced lunch programs. And during the worst time of the year for food insecurity — summer — just 9 percent of children get food assistance.

But even with school breakfast, lunch and after-class meal programs, the need is overwhelming, according to a national survey of public school teachers by Share Our Strength ([strength.org/teachers](http://strength.org/teachers)). About

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## Volunteer Groups Get as Much as They Give

Many hands make light work for the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

Take Chico's. Before the holidays, the merchandise allocation team — including managers and directors — volunteered at the Food Bank in two half-day shifts. Each group first toured the Food Bank to learn how it worked. Then, one group packed fresh zucchini, squash, and peppers into bags for individual users, while the other sorted and packed canned goods.

"The tour was very touching, and some of us had tears in our eyes," said Ashley Levinson, Merchandise Allocator-Fashion Accessories for Chico's FAS. "We felt really good about what we were doing, and at the same time it was fun to chat

and hang out away from work. We hope to volunteer more regularly."

Hodges University's Allied Health Club does just that. This group of about 35 aspiring medical professionals sends between five and 15 volunteers to the Food Bank the last Wednesday of every month. From 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. they bag rice, sort cans, and do whatever chores are needed at the Food Bank warehouse.

"We all very much

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## Letter Carriers Food Drive Needs You!



Circle the date — **May 14** — for the largest one-day food drive in the nation, now in its 19th year. The National Association of Letter Carriers spearheads the 2011 campaign to "Stamp Out Hunger." Last year, the Fort Myers/Cape Coral area collected 445,500 pounds of food. Call 334-7007 to learn how you can volunteer your time and donate food.

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**Harry Chapin Food Bank**  
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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## New VISTA Volunteers Assist Food Bank With Agency Outreach, Technology

From their first day on the job, Ashley Overlock and Ben Walther have been in overdrive.

Thanks to a grant from AmeriCorps VISTA, a national service program, these two new VISTA workers have joined the Harry Chapin Food Bank staff for the next year. Overlock, as Agency Outreach Specialist, already is assisting with partner agency recruitment and needs assessment. Meanwhile, Walther is widening the Food Bank's reach through its web site, social networking, marketing and branding.

Overlock, a graduate of Cypress Lake High School, comes to the Food Bank from the University of South Florida, where she worked with organizations on campus. She hopes to earn a Master's degree in museum studies.



*Ben Walther and Ashley Overlock have joined the Food Bank as Vista Volunteers.*

Walther hails from Ohio, where he studied earth and environmental sciences at Wright State University. He then earned a Master of Science degree in education media design technology from Full Sail University in Winter Park, Fla.

Since VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America) was founded in 1965, more than 180,000 volunteers have served in communities throughout the United States.

### Food Bank Math: How to Turn \$1 into \$6

*From a report by WINK News, which went behind the scenes to learn how Harry Chapin Food Bank turns every donated dollar into \$6 worth of food:*

One Tuesday morning, 13 Harry Chapin Food Bank trucks hit the road. On one route alone in Southwest Florida, a truck made 11 stops to collect donations from stores in the Retail Pick Up program. One of its stops was Wal-Mart, where it picked up between 400 and 500 pounds of food. The rescued food — vegetables, fruits, frozen meats and dairy products — would have gone to waste. Instead, the Food Bank is able to provide it to agencies serving our neighbors in need at a fraction of the food's value. **That's how the food bank multiplies every dollar!**

### Join Us in Thanking Our Grant-Givers

**Theodore and Maria Bollt Family Foundation: \$5,000**

**Chiquita Brands International: \$7,500**

**Ethel & W. George Kennedy Family Foundation: \$23,000**

**Naples Children and Education Foundation: \$24,000**

**Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation: \$5,000**

**Charles E. and Mary Elizabeth Scripps Foundation: \$10,000**

**Wachovia Wells Fargo Foundation: \$10,000\***

**Wells Fargo Advisers: \$8,500**

*(12/1/10 to 2/25/11)*

**Our Mission...**To overcome hunger in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties through education and by working in a cooperative effort with affiliated agencies in the procurement and distribution of food, equitably and without discrimination.



# WINK News Feeds Families Hunger Walk Far Exceeds Goals!

Saturday, January 22, dawned sunny and cool, helping the 3rd annual WINK News Feeds Families Hunger Walk smash its previous fundraising record.

More than \$215,000 was raised to benefit the Harry Chapin Food Bank, far exceeding goals, for a food value of \$1.3 million for Southwest Florida.

"During the months leading up to the walk, I witnessed first-hand Harry Chapin's words in action," said Jo Anna Bradshaw, Food Bank Chairman and President, and co-chair of the Hunger Walk. "More than 1,850 individuals made pledges from \$5 to \$50. It proves that every donation and act of caring is huge!"

"WINK TV was incredible as always, but all our sponsors and the Walk Committee did a great job," said Alexander "Sandy" Robinson, President of Northern Trust, NA, and Hunger Walk co-chair.

Many thanks go to presenting sponsors Panera Bread and Six L's Packing Co., and to Miromar Outlets. Media sponsors in-

cluded The News-Press and WINK Radio. Gold sponsors were FGCU Foundation, Garden Street Iron & Metal Works, Jo Anna & Wilson Bradshaw, Storm Smart Industries, and St. Vincent de Paul – St. Francis Xavier Conference. Silver Sponsors were CenturyLink, Miller, Helms & Folk P.A., Northern Trust, Publix Charities, and The ROCK for Hair and Nails.

Bronze Sponsors included: 21st Century Oncology, BB&T – Oswald Trippe, Christine McCulloch, FOS Furniture, Indy & Karen Pati, Keith Scoggins, Lee Memorial Health Systems, Manhattan Kraft



Lois Thome and Jim McLaughlin served as head cheerleaders at the WINK News Feeds Families Hunger Walk.

Construction, Markham Norton, Mosteller Wright & Company, McBLT Ventures – McDonald's, Moorings Park, Prawnbroker Restaurant Group, Temple Beth El, TGI Friday's, and Wayne Wiles Floor Coverings.

Additional In-Kind Sponsors were: Southwest Florida Neurosurgical & Rehab Associates, Holiday Inn – Airport, Norman Love Confections, and BB&T Bank.

The team at Panera Bread presents Food Bank Executive Director Al Brislain (center, rear) with a \$29,000 check, which includes \$15,000 to kick off the 2012 WINK News Feeds Families Hunger Walk.



## Even Small Communities Can Host a Food Drive!

No community is too small to host a food drive. Caloosa Yacht & Racquet Club in South Fort Myers, with just 170 dwellings, delivered **458** pounds of food and \$300 in donations. Your community can, too! Call Bedzaida Bryen at 334-7007 x141 to find out more.

## Special Events Deliver Funds and Food



Taste of Boca Grande was a huge success this year, raising \$35,400 for the Food Bank.

It's been a very productive season for the Harry Chapin Food Bank, as benefits and special events delivered funds and food:

- Publix Supermarkets' "Food for Sharing" promotion donated 519,438 pounds of food, 60,000 more than in 2009.
- Empty Bowls Collier raised \$35,098, and Empty Bowls Lee \$16,713.
- Miromar Lakes delivered \$9,078 from its "Taste of Miromar" special event.
- Southwest Florida Chevrolet dealers' "Fill the Truck" program donated 3,700 pounds of food.
- And 5-year-old Colin Taschner gathered 137 pounds of food for his birthday!

## Food Insecurity Hits Children Hardest...

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two-thirds (65 percent) of teachers regularly see children come to school hungry, and 41 percent buy food with their own money to compensate (an average of \$25 a month). Many of these children, particularly in urban and rural areas, rely on school meals as their primary source of nutrition.

One thing is clear from the "Hunger in Our Schools" report: Teachers see a strong connection between eating a healthy breakfast and a student's ability to concentrate, behave, and perform academically.

It's an issue the Naples Children & Education Foun-

dation takes seriously. As the founding organization of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, NCEF through its Lunch Boxes of Love initiative raised \$656,520 to address childhood hunger in Collier County.

The Harry Chapin Food Bank will be a primary partner in NCEF's efforts for the next three years. It is sending an NCEF-branded mobile pantry to Collier County four times a month, to distribute an additional 500,000 pounds of food — 33 percent more than in 2010.

Your dollars make a difference for hungry children, so please be generous with your Food Bank donations!



NCEF's Lunch Boxes of Love.

## SW Florida Roofers Contribute \$3,000



Presenting a check to Al Brislain, Food Bank Executive Director (center) are: Chris Rakos, President, Southwest Florida Roofing Contractors Association (right), and Bill Hartung (left), Charity Committee.

# More Charlotte County Families Face Hunger

Just like its neighbors, Charlotte County is seeing a huge increase in the need for food, and it's coming from families.

Thankfully, the amount of food distributed in the county by the Harry Chapin Food Bank has soared 163 percent between calendar years 2007 and 2010 — from 576,292 pounds to 1,515,615 pounds.

“For so many, unemployment payments have run out,” said Cecy Glenn, CEO, United Way of Charlotte County. “They may barely keep a roof over their heads, but they can't also feed their children.”

In fiscal year 2009-2010, this local United Way raised \$1.6 million, and it's pushing hard to match those numbers as its 2010-2011 fiscal year comes to a close.

“We are pleased to support the Food Bank in any capacity because of its fabulous outcomes,” said Glenn. “And Publix food drives have had a huge impact in our community.” So, too, has produce distribution — from just 21 pounds in 2007 to 286,063 pounds in 2010.

“People come in and say, ‘You don't know what this means to me,’” said Clara

Peters, President of St. Vincent de Paul Maximilian in Charlotte County. And because almost 70 percent of this agency's

## Volunteer Groups...

*Continued from page 1*

enjoy the experience,” said Kera Browne, club president. “And we like the fact that all the food stays in the community.”

Southwest Airlines encourages volunteerism, and Tickets for Time is a great example. For every 40 hours an employee or group of employees volunteers for a non-profit organization, Southwest donates a complementary round-trip air ticket for that organization's use.

When Southwest's small, local team of 40 employees here pulled up the Harry Chapin Food Bank web site, “we really wanted to get them a ticket,” said Administrator Celena

clients are families, Peters was especially looking forward to the first visit to Charlotte County of the Food Bank's mobile pantry in late March.

Marr. Employees made three-hour visits in June, August, and October, and twice each in November and December, developing a friendly competition among groups for who packaged more.

“We loved it, and it didn't seem like work,” said Marr. “Tickets for Time is such a wonderful program that we hope to get the Food Bank two tickets this year!”

In 2010, 858 volunteers from 195 businesses provided 4,094 hours of assistance;

178 volunteers from eight colleges gave 1,270 hours; and 225 volunteers from 24 high schools devoted 1,063 hours.

**Make a date for your group to volunteer! Call Bedzaida Bryen at 334-7007 x141.**



*Southwest Airlines' "volunteer hours" got the Food Bank a free airline ticket!*

Get ready for the biggest food drive of the year! Volunteer for the Letter Carriers' Food Drive on Saturday, May 14.

**The Harry Chapin Food Bank**  
of Southwest Florida  
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