



Harry Chapin Food Bank OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Vol. XII, No. 4

Newsletter — Fall 2012

Get Ready...Hunger Walk Is Coming!
WINK News Feeds Families Hunger Walk blew past last year's goal to reach the \$310,000 mark. So get ready for the 2013 Hunger Walk on January 19th at Miromar Outlets in Estero. We need sponsors and walkers, so sign on now! Go to www.harrychapinfoodbank.org

INSIDE...
Food Bank Welcomes New Board Members.....2
Forging a Bigger Presence in Collier.....3
Planting Seeds of Hope in Charlotte.....3
Bonita Pantry Delivers 'Choice' and 'Fresh'.....4

As Numbers Rise, Southwest Florida Boosts Efforts to Fight Senior Hunger

There's no way to sugar-coat the fact that older adults are very much at risk of hunger.

In our corner of Florida, 3,000 seniors visit emergency food programs each month. Many more are isolated, too proud or embarrassed or infirm to go where the food is.

The slippery slope of senior hunger starts with occasionally cutting back on meals, then missing meals on a regular basis in order to pay for rent or medicine.

"They don't realize that the lack of proper nutrition can make them sicker,"

One Senior's Story...

"Many people lined up in the hot sun, awaiting a mobile pantry distribution of food in Cape Coral. As a nurse volunteer, I went up and down the line passing out water. Moments later, I was called to help an elderly woman who fainted in my arms.

"We applied ice packs, got her food, and took her home. Along the way, she showed me how far she had walked to catch the bus and where she had to transfer for the rest of her journey.

"Her house belonged to her son, she said, who let her live there. When I carried in her food, I found it very hot and the refrigerator turned off. She protested, but I turned on the AC because she needed it, and I turned on the refrigerator because much of the food we gave her required it.

"Here is a woman living in my own community in abject poverty, and no one knows or cares. I got her fixed with Meals on Wheels, and a social worker will be out to visit her. We need to be mindful of our neighbors' needs! "

said Nancy Green-Irwin, Executive Director, Senior Friendship Centers (SFC).

The picture, however, is not all bleak! The Harry Chapin Food Bank and partner agencies like SFC are increasing their outreach to seniors.

A good example is SFC's "Friendship Food Bag" program. Businesses, clubs or churches "adopt" one of SFC's 10 dining sites, collecting and bagging food for monthly distribution, or they make direct delivery of bags to homebound seniors. SFC supplements the donations with food, especially senior-friendly items, from the Food Bank. Four dining sites have been adopted, and the entire program now feeds almost 130 seniors each month.

Earlier this year the Food Bank partnered with Goodwill on a senior mobile pantry "test pilot" at Hatton Rogers Apart-



Senior Friendship Centers' Friendship Food Bag program supplements donations with food from the Harry Chapin Food Bank. Sadie Fleming is an adult day service client at SFC.

ments in Fort Myers. It distributed a recent donation of senior-friendly foods from the Feeding America network to agencies that serve many seniors. Meanwhile, nine weeks of summer mobile pantries in partnership with the United Way of Lee, Hendry and Glades helped to feed 321 seniors (along with 7,000 children and adults in need).

Your donations directly help us deliver more food to partner agencies. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Save the Dates!

Feed Public Radio, Feed a Family

October 15 to 26. WGCU (90.1 FM) and Walmart unite again in the station's fall membership campaign. Walmart will match listeners' pledges by 10 percent — donating up to \$16,000 for the Food Bank!

Holiday Food Drives

November 1 to December 31. The Publix "Food for Sharing" promotion lets customers add a donation right at checkout, and the bulk food

will be delivered to the Food Bank. Sweetbay's "Box Out Hunger" program displays preassembled food boxes customers can buy for the Food Bank.

Empty Bowls Lee County

December 1, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Alliance for the Arts. A \$10 donation buys your choice of ceramic bowls made by local students — a reminder that many bowls are empty in our community. Sample soups from local restaurants, and enjoy music, a silent auction and pottery demonstrations.

For every \$1 donation, the Food Bank can source and distribute \$6 worth of food! Please give generously...



Harry Chapin Food Bank OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

3760 Fowler St.,
Fort Myers, Florida 33901
Phone: (239) 334-7007

www.harrychapinfoodbank.org

Board of Directors

Chairperson

JO ANNA BRADSHAW
Florida Gulf Coast University

Vice Chairperson

NOELLE MELANSON
Attorney, Melanson Law

Treasurer

CRAIG FOLK
Miller, Helms and Folk, P.A.

Secretary

RABBI JEREMY BARRAS
Temple Beth El

Members at Large

AIDA BARNHART
Hendry County S.H.I.P.

JOHN D. BELISLE

BB&T-Oswald Trippe & Co.

MARTHA BIREDA, Ph.D.
Writer/Lecturer/Consultant

CONNIE BOYD

WCI Communications

KAREN PATI

Chiquita Brands/Fresh Express
RAYMOND (RAY) PAVELKA
Mariner Properties Development

KRISTINA RODRIGUEZ
Hope HealthCare Services

BRIAN SCHWARTZ, M.D.
21st Century Oncology, and
Florida Urology Physicians

P. KEITH SCOGGINS, JR.
Farm Credit Services (Consultant)

GEOFF WALDAU
Sweetbay Supermarket

Emeritus Board

JOHN B. McCLAY (deceased)
JOHN POELKER (Emeritus chair)

For information, contact:

Al Brislain, *President and CEO*
Joyce Jacobs, *Communications*
Miriam Pereira, *Development*
Marta Hodson, *Special Events*
Bedzaida Bryen, *Volunteers*

Maxine Golding, *Newsletter Editor*

Food Bank Welcomes New Board Members

Three new members of the board of directors bring a wide array of experiences to the Harry Chapin Food Bank:

Connie Boyd, Vice President, communication and lifestyle development for WCI Communities. A native

Missourian, Boyd has lived in Fort Myers since 1979. She is an active member of the Food Bank's marketing/development committee, and serves as the point person for the WCI Communities' United Way campaign.

Raymond (Ray) Pavelka, President of Mariner Properties Development. A



Connie Boyd

Meet the Food Bank's New SNAP Outreach Coordinator

Florida native Beatrice Pizarro takes on the job of SNAP Outreach Coordinator for the Food Bank, assisting clients with their applications for the food stamp program. She draws on five years of expertise with the state's Department of Children and Families.



"The Food Bank is making a difference by going where the need is," said the business management major at Florida Gulf Coast University. "I'm excited to be here!"

graduate of Cornell University, Pavelka has served on numerous boards and organizations, and received recognition from state and local governments for his work on environmental land preservation initiatives. The company's Little



Ray Pavelka



Geoff Waldau

Pine Island Mitigation Bank is a flagship for environmental restoration in Florida. **Geoff Waldau, Senior Vice President-merchandising, Sweetbay Supermarket.** Prior to joining Sweetbay in 2008, Waldau was vice president of store operations for Food Lion's Southern Division. He is a graduate of Wake Forest University, where he received a bachelor's degree in business administration.

Grants and Donations

United Way of Lee, Hendry and Glades: \$122,345

United Way of Collier County: \$50,000

United Way of Charlotte County: \$13,692.58

Connect with the Food Bank...

www.facebook.com/HarryChapinFoodBank

www.twitter.com/HCFBSWFL

www.youtube.com/harrychapinfoodbank

www.linkedin.com/in/hcfbswfl

www.pinterest.com/hcfbswfl/



Scan this QR code on your smartphone to go right to the Food Bank!

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.



Partner Agency



Find the Food Bank on Facebook

A member of



FGCU Students Stage Food Drive



As part of a Foundations of Civic Engagement course project, Florida Gulf Coast University students partnered with the Harry Chapin Food Bank to host a July food drive at the Publix Supermarket across from Miromar Outlets in Estero. The FGCU Civic Engagement team included: (l-r in photo) Michelle Danbury, Fernando Estrada and Brenda Hovanec; and Rachel Goldman and Mike Johnson (not pictured). Thank you!

Food and Funds Help Our Communities!

The voting efforts of employees and friends of **BB&T-Oswald Trippe** earned the Harry Chapin Food Bank \$7,500 in the **Safeco Insurance** “Make More Happen Awards” event.

Over just five days, **CenturyLink**’s Feed the Children Backpack Buddies Food Drive amassed 480 pounds of food for the Food Bank, and more than \$9,300 in monetary donations and foundation contribution.

Eighteen employees of **Northern Trust Bank** packed 3,100 pounds of rice and beans — 2,000 meals — at the Food Bank.

At the 4th annual “Fill Our Fleet — Feed Our Hungry” promotion by **LeeTran** and **Publix**, caravans of buses delivered donated groceries from 34 supermarkets to the Food Bank warehouse.

At a road rally challenge for the opening of a new store, **CarMax** donated \$1,000 for winner Alissa Reitmeier, WINK News traffic reporter, and a \$1,000 match.

Fall 2012

Forging a Bigger Presence in Collier

When people think of Collier County, they think of wealthy Naples. But this largest (by land mass) of the counties that the Harry Chapin Food Bank serves feeds 62 percent of its children free lunch. Meanwhile, the Food Bank has the capacity to help many more agencies than it presently reaches.

That’s why the Food Bank recently expanded its presence here, renting 5,000 square feet of warehouse space (with capacity to store 400,000 pounds of food) in the Meals of Hope building on Corporation Boulevard in Naples. It is relocating a warehouse manager from Fort Myers and hiring a full-time driver for the 26-foot

refrigerated truck that will be housed at the new location. Coolers are being set up, as the Food Bank seeks to raise funds to buy freezers.

Agencies will be able to pick up fresh produce and dairy products at the new location, a real boon to the children, families and seniors in need in Collier County.

“We’ll focus on increasing the number of partner agencies and expanding our current programs,” said Katie Schweikhardt, Collier County Food Coordinator and Director of Programs.

“Many organizations don’t know what a food bank does, or the food distribution and services we provide.”

Planting Seeds of Hope in Charlotte

A little bit of investment is sprouting into an awfully big return for Charlotte County.

First, **Smuggler’s Enterprise** has given the Harry Chapin Food Bank \$7,500 from its corporate donation program (0.5 percent of daily sales at its five restaurants) and its voluntary employee donation program. The money will provide food to specified pantries in Charlotte County.

“We want to ensure that everyone in our community is fed,” said Tammy Beck, the general manager of Harpoon Harry’s and community liaison for Smuggler’s Foundation.

That help is much appreciated in

Charlotte County, where “the need for emergency food assistance has increased dramatically since the 2008 economic downturn,” said Al Brislain, CEO of the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

More good news comes from **The Mosaic Company Foundation**, whose \$125,000 grant for a new 24-foot refrigerated truck will help the Food Bank deliver fresh, nutritious foods to underserved areas, particularly Charlotte County, where many Mosaic employees live. The foundation is investing \$2.79 million in grants in Florida to support initiatives that include hunger relief.

After inspecting the Harry Chapin Food Bank warehouse, the American Institute of Baking gave it a superior rating — the only Food Bank in Florida to achieve this gold standard for food safety!

WCI Event Packs a Wallop In Food and Volunteers



It was a day full of fun and giving at Estero High School, when 450 volunteers (including lots of kids!) from WCI Communities partnered with Meals of Hope and the United Way to pack 225,000 meals for those in need!

Mobile Pantry Delivers 10,000 Pounds to Dunbar



Thanks to funding from Tom Lehnert, Rick Ritz and Banks Engineering, a Harry Chapin Food Bank mobile pantry delivered 10,000 pounds of food to Dunbar residents. Assisting the distribution at Clemente Park in late July were a host of elected officials and local agencies that provide services and information to children, adults and seniors.

Remember the Harry Chapin Food Bank in your estate planning

Bonita Pantry Delivers 'Choice' and 'Fresh'

Maribel Slabaugh can tell you exactly how hard the recession hit Bonita Springs.

Today the Bonita Springs Assistance Office (a United Way of Lee County partner) serves 18 percent of all residents, a dramatic jump from 12 percent in 2009. Most are the working poor, and hunger remains the "number-one issue across the social spectrum of the community," said Slabaugh, the BSAO's Executive Director.

"Food becomes the last item in their



Fresh produce is distributed during "Green Friday" at the Bonita Springs Assistance Office.

budget, because if their rent and vehicle aren't paid for, their lives go into a downward spiral," she explained.

That's not going to happen on BSAO's watch. It supplements its year-round "choice" pantry and "Green Friday" fresh produce distributions with mobile pantries from the Harry Chapin Food Bank in summer. Clients can visit the pantry once every 30 days, and also have the opportunity to carry two big bags of fruits, vegetables, and dairy products every Friday from three pallets that the Food Bank truck delivers.

The pantry is open Monday and Wednesday from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. "Green Friday" operates from 1:00 to 2:30 p.m.

Partnerships like this one are vital to

BSAO's work. Last Thanksgiving, with funding from the United Way and food from the Food Bank, BSAO was able to feed 357 families for the holiday week.

A move last year to an expanded location enabled the BSAO to reassess the community's food needs. The population is diverse, said Slabaugh, 55 percent Caucasian and 45 percent Hispanic, and so is the food they eat. By changing from pre-packaged bags to a "choice" pantry — where customers select food as if they were in a supermarket — "we are serving the community the way they need it," she noted.

One client dissolved into tears when she learned about "Green Friday." For three months, her family hadn't been able to eat salads, fruits and vegetables as they used to because they were too expensive to buy.

Your Planned Gift Provides Lasting Support...

Jean L., a loyal contributor since 2005, passed away last April, but she's still giving. Through her estate plan, the Harry Chapin Food Bank will benefit for years to come from her compassion and generosity. Call Tom Brown, 334-7007, x124, to learn more about planned giving.

Make Time to Pitch In!
Without our seasonal volunteers,
we need you more than ever.
Call 334-7007 x141 today!

The Harry Chapin Food Bank
of Southwest Florida
3760 Fowler Street
Fort Myers, Florida 33901

Nonprofit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Ft. Myers, FL
Permit No. 720