



Harry Chapin Food Bank OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

WCI Makes Great Offer to Golfers

WCI Communities is again donating rounds of golf at three clubs in Lee and Collier counties (up to a \$300 value) to anyone who donates \$100 to the Harry Chapin Food Bank/United Way by September 14. Minimum donation is \$100 per foursome (including cart), and the offer is good through September 30. **Go to WCIgolf.com now!**

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Newsletter — Summer 2012

Summer Meals for Kids Program Revived in Collier and Glades

Southwest Florida will be feeding more children than ever this summer, thanks to new collaborations nurtured by the Harry Chapin Food Bank and supporting grants of \$5,000 from the Southwest Florida Community Foundation and \$3,000 from the Junior League of Fort Myers.

The federal government supplements its school-year program of free breakfast and lunch for students in need with the USDA's Summer Food Service Program. The funding is provided in Florida through the Department of Agriculture. Children 18 years or younger register for their meals and simply show up, this year at 85 sites in Lee County, a dozen in Charlotte County, and eight in Hendry County.

After problems beset the program in Collier County last year, the Food Bank's Katie Schweikhardt, now Director of Programs, spent many hours with administrators in county government, Parks & Recreation, the district schools

and the Hunger and Homeless Coalition. Through their collaboration, the program is back on! Flyers identifying the 18 sites were provided to the Food Bank's partner agencies in the county. The sites provide breakfast every weekday at 7:30 or 8 a.m. and lunch at midday.

Glades County rejoins the summer food program after a hiatus of four years. Danielle Hardre, Child Hunger Corps Member, brought community members together last September, and their hard work resulted in a nine-week program (Monday through Thursday) that will serve 150 children at eight lunch sites. The outpouring of support was evident when 43 people showed up at a session to train site supervisors!

The school district will prepare meals at a location in Moore Haven; supervisors will transport the meals to

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Grace Nelson Hears About Hunger in Southwest Florida



Grace Nelson (right), wife of U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, has been deeply involved with the issue of hunger since 1980. During her visit to the Harry Chapin Food Bank in May, she met Jayma Morgan Davis (left), a food pantry recipient and volunteer, and Heather Fitzenhagen, candidate for state representative for District 78.

“It's amazing what happens when you have kids and are thrown into life-altering situations.

“I always thought I would be a career person. I never expected to need assistance,” college-educated Jayma Morgan Davis told the gathering. “I worked at a bank because the hours were convenient for raising a family with my husband, who is an artist. It was very tough to be let go after three years, just months before my daughter was born.

“I grew up knowing that you don't get anything for nothing. You have to do something. I can't just take food, so I volunteer, and I've been helping out as much as possible. I got a waitressing job for now, but we're still struggling.”

Jen Chapin Carries On Her Father's Fight Against Hunger

Singer-songwriter Jen Chapin shared her passion for eradicating hunger — a legacy from her father, Harry Chapin — during her keynote presentation at this year's Hunger Summit (page 3), and followed up with a concert to benefit the Food Bank.



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

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www.harrychapinfoodbank.org

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In-school Pantry Helps Children Flourish

For four years, **Orange River Elementary School** has sent food home with children through a "backpack" program. This year, an in-school pantry, set up with the help of St. Vincent de Paul on Palm Beach Boulevard and stocked with food from the Harry Chapin Food Bank, is feeding more children and families at one-fifth the price.

A state grant is also funding fresh fruits and vegetables, which serve as daily snacks. "It's been incredible," said Holly Bell, Principal.

The pantry was up and running last August, the first week children were back in school. Since then, it has served 150 fami-

lies each week. Teacher Michael Boddy assists two paraprofessionals in running the pantry. A group of mothers volunteers to cut up the fruit for in-school use and stays to pack food boxes that are distributed every Wednesday, from 2 to 7 p.m.

"The pantry has turned out to be a more consistent way for the children to be fed," Bell said. "If we didn't do this, our kids would be more hungry." Indeed, as many as 95 percent of the school's students get free and reduced-price lunch, and the majority of their families earn \$20,000 or less per year. "It's a passion of mine for them to have the best abilities to think and learn."

Connect with the Food Bank...

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

Food Bank Staff on the Move

Katie Schweikhardt takes on the role of Director of Programs as she continues to be responsible for the Naples Children and Education Foundation project as Collier Child Hunger Coordinator. She will implement programs related to improving agency and client services, and take a more active role in an array of programs.



Homer Gutierrez moves from SNAP Outreach Coordinator to Agency Relations Manager. He is responsible for monitoring partner agencies, processing agency applications, and providing agencies with training and technical assistance.



Ben Walther came to the Food Bank as a Vista Volunteer, and has stayed on as Social Media and Online Services Coordinator. He is enhancing the Food Bank's presence on the Web and social media channels, and creating YouTube videos and Food Bank materials.



Corporation/Foundation Grants and Donations

Junior League of Fort Myers: \$3,000
Southwest Florida Community Foundation: \$5,000
Whole Kids Foundation and FoodCorps: \$2,000
(2/21/12 - 5/15/12)

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

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Local Collaborations Feed More in Need



The Harry Chapin Food Bank helps to foster collaborations around the issue of hunger by facilitating events that engage partner agencies. At the first **Collier Hunger Forum** (left) and **5th Hunger Summit** (below), agencies explored ways they can work together to feed more children, families and seniors in need in Southwest Florida. (A forum is being planned for Charlotte County in the fall.)



In her summit keynote speech, Jen Chapin, Harry's daughter, offered the example of WhyHunger (formerly World Hunger Year, which Harry founded with Bill Ayres in 1975). It facilitates local solutions in "food deserts," areas with limited access to stores with fresh produce.



Letter Carriers Work To 'Stamp out Hunger'

The 20th National Letter Carriers' Food Drive netted **297,532 pounds of food** in Lee County with the assistance of **150 postal volunteers** and **372 Harry Chapin Food Bank volunteers**. Thanks to all!

Fundraisers and Food Drives Make a Difference!

Thank you for making a big difference in our local communities:

The Food Bank competed against other metropolitan areas in **Walmart's** "Fighting Hunger Together" Facebook campaign, and came out with \$40,000!

The **Mosaic Company** donated \$11,500 from its 2nd annual Home Runs for Food partnership with the Harry Chapin Food Bank and Tampa Bay Rays to help feed hungry families in Charlotte County.

Generous support of individuals and a match offer from **Bank of America Charitable Foundation** have resulted in a contribution of \$8,000 to the Food Bank.

MBA Airport Transportation donated \$5 of each fare on a single day through its "Drive Hunger out of Southwest Florida" promotion, for a total of \$1,730.

The **Minnesota Twins Community Fund** presented \$3,944 from a charity raffle held at all the home spring training games.



Find more photos at: www.facebook.com/HarryChapinFoodBank

Golf at Grandeza Raises \$50,000



The 2nd Golf Classic at Grandeza Golf and Country Club in Estero raised \$50,000, thanks to Eagle Sponsor: Sweetbay Supermarket; Birdie Sponsors: The Sanibel Trust Company and The Naples Trust Company; Par Sponsors: Florida Gulf Coast University, Iberia Bank, Maddox Construction, and The Lutgert Companies; and the leadership of co-chairs Nancy Klaas (center in photo, owner with husband, Dick, of the Club at Grandeza) and Jo Anna Bradshaw, chairman of the Harry Chapin Food Bank board of directors.



BJ's Charitable Foundation Donates \$10,000

Barry Sallie, BJ's General Manager (far left), and Sandra Aguilar, Community Relations Specialist (far right), present a check to the Food Bank's Miriam Pereira and Al Brislain.

Wells Fargo Packs Beans And Rice — And a \$5,000 Donation!



Wells Fargo modeled community service when more than 100 service managers from Southwest Florida packed beans and rice at Harbor-side Event Center. Icing the cake, the company donated \$5,000!

Tuesday Afternoon Volunteers Turn Work Into Fun

Every week, some very dedicated South-west Floridians roll up their sleeves and get to work at the Harry Chapin Food Bank. They'll let you in on a little secret — volunteering is just so much fun! So come meet a few of them...

David and Kay Parkinson began volunteering every season they visited Kay's mother, Libby Kline, who was herself a volunteer until her mid-90s! (She passed away just shy of her 100th birthday.) When David and Kay retired here full-time, the sort-

Serious work — and serious fun — keep the Tuesday afternoon volunteers coming back for more.



ing room became their Tuesday afternoon home. "If it helps get food to people in need, we're happy to do it," she said.

Sherry Pate supports the Food Bank in so many ways. She helps sort and pack food, has been trained as a team leader, and conducts new agency orientation.

"We're making a difference for people who desperately need to be fed," she said.

Volunteers **Elaine and Carl Puricelli** will go just about everywhere for the Food Bank and love to help with special events. They've sold raffle tickets at the Minnesota Twins games, worked on the food drive at the Lee

County Fair, and assisted with the Grandezza Golf Tournament.

A recent addition to the group is **Mark Rigsby**, a retiree from St. Louis whose daughter works for USDA. "She told me, 'You need to make yourself useful, and I know the perfect place for you to go.' It's a great opportunity for me to give back to this community."

Summer Meals for Kids...

Continued from page 1

each site, monitor the feeding, and complete required paperwork. Most locations will offer an activity — led by an artist, firefighter, naturalist and others — alongside the meal, keeping children involved from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Flyers, magnets, door hangers, even yard signs are helping spread the word.

"The Food Bank is often the first point of contact when you think about feeding people," Hardre said. "But we're just one piece. It really does take a whole community to make a program like this come together."

When you create or revise your estate plans, please make a gift to the Food Bank and include specific language that outlines your support. Call Tom Brown, 334-7007, x124. Thank you for your caring and compassion!

Make Time to Pitch in!
We need you more than ever,
as seasonal volunteers leave.
Call 334-7007 x141 today!

The Harry Chapin Food Bank
of Southwest Florida
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