



We Need You at the Hunger Walk!

The 6th Annual WINK News Feeds Families Hunger Walk is just weeks away on January 18th. But there is still time to form a team or join more than 1,000 participants as a single walker at Miromar Outlets in Estero. Sign up today at www.harrychapinfoodbank.org or call (239) 334-7007. You'll be glad you did!

INSIDE...

Caring People Make Our Community.....2
 Tree of Life Pantry Gives Hope to Many.....3
 Volunteers Sort 295,000 Pounds of Food in 30 Days.....4

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Newsletter — Winter 2014

From Farm to Table: Many Hands Make Quick Turnaround at Food Bank Warehouse

It's a plain fact: Children in food-insecure households don't receive the nutrients they need to grow and learn.

That's why the Harry Chapin Food Bank has made such a big push over the past five years to source and deliver fresh fruits, vegetables and meats to the youngest at risk, who represent 40 percent of the clients at our 150 partner agencies.

Thanks to the Food Bank's Fresh Produce Rescue program, 4.8 million pounds of fresh food passed quickly and safely through the warehouse last fiscal year. Among 13 local farms and packinghouses that participate is Troyer Farms in east Fort Myers, which donated 198,000 pounds of potatoes in the Food Bank's 2012-2013 fiscal year. Let's follow one recent shipment.

370 pounds of food per minute go in and out of our warehouse doors every day...



Potatoes unloaded (left), and then re-sorted (above)

Day 1, 10:31 a.m.: Two Food Bank refrigerated trucks pull up to the warehouse docks, after workers at Troyer Farms earlier packed 40,000 pounds of potatoes in 2,000-pound bags.

2:14 p.m.: Volunteers unload the potatoes into giant 55-inch burlap bags and place them into our on-site cooler.

Day 2, 9:02 a.m.: Volunteers sort potatoes into 3- or 5- pound mesh bags donated by Troyer Farms. These go into collapsible bins destined for agency partners and upcoming mobile pantries.

11:13 a.m.: Warehouse staff puts to-

gether orders (with potatoes) for agencies and mobile pantry distributions and loads them into delivery vehicles.

4:30 p.m.: Nutritious potatoes begin to show up on the tables of those in need.

Without this free donation, it would cost the Food Bank \$10,000 to source and transport these potatoes.

The Fresh Produce Rescue program shows how far your dollars go in helping the Food Bank provide nutrient-rich food to those in need. Thank you!

Your donations help support our programs!

'Yay, We Get Thanksgiving!'

Two boys share their elation at receiving a turkey and fixings for Thanksgiving during a Harry Chapin Food Bank mobile pantry distribution at Eden Park in Collier County. Thanks to generous donations, 12,000 turkeys and chickens moved from the Food Bank to our agency partners in November, and many more holiday birds were on their way to families in need in December.



Mobile Pantry Helps Newly Disabled Vet

From one of the mobile pantry distributions made possible by a generous donation from the Gunterberg Charitable Foundation: It was a difficult story to hear. A three-tour military veteran comes home triumphantly to family and friends. He finds work, but sustains a disabling injury on the job. Soon, he shows up at a Harry Chapin Food Bank mobile pantry distribution in Cape Coral, grateful for the help he and his family are able to receive...

A single mobile pantry can distribute enough food for 300 families.



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



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FOOD BANK NOTES...

From CEO Al Brislain

Caring People, No Matter Their Origin, Make Our Community

Many of you, like me, were probably not born in Southwest Florida, but came here at a later stage in your lives. Some would wonder about the sense of community that can be formed by such a hodgepodge of native Floridians and émigrés from around the United States and other countries. Yet, I am continually impressed by the way our community joins together to help children and families in need, especially during the holiday season.

This year, the Harry Chapin Food Bank expected to distribute about 20,000 “birds” to needy households, with most of the traditional trimmings — potatoes, green beans, squash, baked goods and more. The roster of individuals, companies and community organizations that made this possible is too lengthy to list here, but I am quite sure that most of the people involved in this gargantuan effort are not native to this area. Nevertheless, when the season of sharing is upon us, caring people reach out to help thousands of their neighbors in need.

When you consider the diverse roots that help to form our community, that so

many come together to create such a community of caring is all the more impressive. An ancient African proverb says, “It takes a village to raise a child.” Our “village” fed and nurtured thousands of children this holiday season. Feels good, doesn’t it?



Grants and Donations

- Bank of America Charitable Foundation: \$12,600
- BI-LO Holdings Foundation: \$28,000
- BJ's Charitable Foundation: \$11,000
- Al & Nancy Burnett Charitable Foundation, Inc.: \$20,000
- The CarMax Foundation: \$5,000
- Collier County Bar Foundation: \$5,000
- Community Foundation of Collier County: \$2,500
- Copham Family Foundation: \$5,000
- Hoffer Family Foundation: \$10,000
- The Ethel and W. George Kennedy Family Foundation: \$30,000
- Target Foundation: \$5,000
- Walmart Foundation: \$60,000

Temple Shalom Reaches \$150,000 Milestone

Members of Temple Shalom in Naples achieved a milestone when they raised more than \$10,000 for the Food Bank during the High Holy Days this past fall. Since 2002, when members began these collections between the High Holy Days of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, the congregation has raised \$150,000!



“It is quite powerful to know that while we fast voluntarily on Yom Kippur, many go without food because they have no choice,” said Rabbi Adam Miller. “These acts have brought nourishment to those in need...We look forward to continuing our work with the Harry Chapin Food Bank in the fight against hunger.”

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



LeeTran and Publix Set a New Record!



LeeTran and Publix collected 166,399 pounds of food and \$2,510 in cash donations for the Food Bank during the annual "Fill Our Fleet to Feed the Hungry" Food Drive. LeeTran's 140 volunteers helped load buses at 34 Publix stores, and another 100 volunteers unloaded the food at the Food Bank warehouse. Thank you all!

Tree of Life Food Pantry Gives Hope to Many

On the second and fourth Saturdays of every month, the lines outside the Tree of Life Church grow longer, but so do the resolve and compassion of the volunteers at this busy food pantry.

More than a 100 Collier County families, on average, are on the receiving end each month of more than 4,000 pounds of food. That number ballooned this past summer, when two mobile pantries from the Harry Chapin Food Bank supplemented the food distribution. More than 85,000 pounds of food were shared with 72,000 people — 40 percent of them children younger than 18, explained food pantry coordinator Melissa Parsons.

The church's location across from an

elementary school and just blocks from a homeless shelter and a rehab center helps the pantry reach those most in need. "We tell people, when you see the big white truck pull into our driveway, head on down," she said. "When people are thinking that only a miracle will deliver food today, they can't believe it."

The Food Bank has been supplying the food pantry since its inception. "We look at the Food Bank as flowing in its gifts and wonderful service for the community," she said. "We

are happy to be partners and look forward to serving the community with them for years to come."



A recent food distribution at Tree of Life Church's pantry

Snowbird Communities Open Their Hearts

Our story begins in 2009 at Corkscrew Woodlands in Estero, one of many snowbird communities whose residents don't leave their compassion up north.

Ohioan Pam Green Parker always hated to hear about people going without food. She knew that a group would make a bigger impact for the Harry Chapin Food Bank than just herself, so she approached the board of directors and representatives for the community's "circles" of homes. With their support, she became the main coordinator of food and monetary donations, which were kept anonymous.

"Our Corkscrew Woodlands residents deserve all the credit," said Parker. "They

gave generously when I'm sure they had their own needs."

Jean Guy, former purchasing manager for the City of Naples, graciously took over the coordination when Pam could not continue this year. One circle is donating its 50-50 winnings when it is the bingo sponsor, while another circle is giving the winnings from its "wheel game" at the community's block party. "I have toured the Food Bank facility and was very impressed!" she said, spreading the word about how little is spent on administrative costs and how much goes to providing food.

Learn how your community can help! Call (239) 334-7007 x141.

Montenero Talks 'Turkey'

Over four years, Norma Jean Joyner and her neighbors at Montenero at Pelican Bay in Naples have raised \$16,681 to buy 1,200 turkeys!

Our Thanks Go to...

- **WINK News Feeds Families at Miro-mar Outlets** collected 3,200 pounds of food and \$1,600.
- During **WGCU's** pledge drive, the **Walmart** match for the Food Bank totaled \$23,000.
- **B103.9 Camp Out for Hunger** brought in \$3,013 and 21,149 pounds of food.
- Jay and Sandy Russo of **Good Deals Appliances** donated \$2,000 for holiday birds.
- **Publix's Holiday Food Drive** expected to exceed 2012's 261,600 pounds!

A Very Young Fundraiser!



When first-grader Annmarie Sheehan at Tortuga Preserve Elementary heard from her grandmother that the school's pantry was gathering food to give families Thanksgiving dinner, she wanted to help! Instead of birthday gifts, she asked friends and family to donate money for turkeys and food for families in need — raising \$250 for the school pantry!

LOOKING AHEAD...call (239) 334-7007 x130

- **Big BBQ & Bash, January 24, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.** The Chamber of Southwest Florida's Leadership Lee County Class of 2012 hosts this fundraiser at Harley-Davidson at 2160 Colonial Boulevard.
- **8th Annual Naples Empty Bowls, January 25, 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Cambier Park.** Donate \$15 and fill a hand-crafted ceramic bowl with soup from 40 local restaurants and dip in some Panera Bread.
- **12th Annual Taste of Boca Grande, February 3, 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.** Since its debut, this signature event has raised \$308,000 for the Food Bank, with great food from 17 local restaurants and music by the Steve Chapin Band.

Volunteers Sort 295,000 Pounds in 30 Days!

“Make a Difference Day” on October 26 kicked off a very busy and productive 30 days at the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

Volunteers from two dozen organizations spent hours packing rice and beans into family-friendly bundles, and produce into individual bags. “It’s a great team-building event,” said Tanya Phillips, Food Bank volunteer manager. “Everyone feels so good afterwards for being able to help out.”

Charlotte County Publix and SunTrust Bank started the ball rolling on Friday, October 25, at CHAPS (Charlotte HIV/AIDS People Support). Volunteers packed an entire pallet of rice — 3,000 bags. The next day, at the Food Bank warehouse, Villas and Tanglewood Elementary Schools

packed rice and beans, while Florida Gulf Coast University and Wells Fargo packaged produce.

Then came Fort Myers Beach Yacht Club, Lee County Democrats, Heritage Palms, Sandy Park, Royal Palm, Opportunity Services, Regions Bank, CVS Pharmacy, Marshalls, Salus Care, Ameriprise, James Stephens Academy (College Reach Out program), Messiah Lutheran, Rich Dad Education, Bonefish Grill and Murphy USA. All the volunteers packed 7,050 pounds of rice and 4,750 pounds of beans, and sorted 295,000 pounds of food. WOW!

**Your group can volunteer, too!
Call (239) 334-7007 x141.**



Villas and Tanglewood Elementary Schools (above) and Ameriprise (left) helped the Food Bank on “Make a Difference Day.”

Connect with the Food Bank...

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www.youtube.com/harrychapinfoodbank
www.linkedin.com/in/hcfbswfl
www.pinterest.com/hcfbswfl/

A Simple Gift...But So Memorable!

Each year individuals designate a portion of their assets for the benefit of the Harry Chapin Food Bank. Tax-deferred retirement-plan assets are among the simplest to give. Just contact your plan administrator and request a new beneficiary designation form. You may direct all or a portion of the assets by adding the Harry Chapin Food Bank and signing your name. If you change your mind about the gift, simply request a new beneficiary-designation form. It's that easy! To find out more, call Tom Brown, director of planned giving, at (239) 334-7007 x124.

Winter 2014

Become a Volunteer!
 We have lots of opportunities for you to help us help others.
 Call (239) 334-7007 today!

The Harry Chapin Food Bank
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