



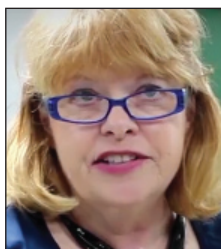
Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

VOLUNTEER VIBES

Serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties

May 2017

‘Why I Choose to Volunteer For the Food Bank...’



Beth Kohl: *“I retired a little over a year ago and decided to give something back to the community. I started coming three days a week and I really enjoy it. It’s three hours of not so very hard work, and you get a real sense of satisfaction by doing it.”*

Doug Souder: *“My father was a minister, and we did stuff like this all the time. We happen to be okay, so we decided to help others who may not be quite as fortunate as we are. I’d recommend it for anybody. It’s a great experience.”*



Ginette McCoy: *“It’s so easy to complain about all the sad stories in this world. When you’re here and you actually do the work, there’s so much less to complain about, because you know you are part of the solution. It gives a tremendous amount of hope.”*

Volunteers’ Value Keeps Rising

Did you know... that the value of your time as a volunteer is now \$24.14 per hour, according to the **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics**? When first developed in 1980, this rate was calculated at \$7.46.

April was “Volunteer Month,” but we’re thankful that so many of you find ways to help the Food Bank whenever you can!

SAVE THE DATE...

**June 10,
9 to 11:30 a.m.:
Family Volunteer Day.
Children ages 10 and older are welcome to participate. Call 334-7007 x141.**



**Find out more at
harrychapinfoodbank.org**

TRACKING OUR VOLUNTEERS

(Hours FY to date: July 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017)

Volunteers: 4,603

Total hours: 30,270

Value: \$713,161.20

Volunteer group hours: 2,567

Pounds packed/sorted: 250,865

Total pounds processed: 4,022,561

Total meals: 3,352,134

Mobile Food Pantries: Big Need in Summer

For volunteer schedules, contact Tanya Phillips at (239) 334-7007 x141

Many food-insecure families dread the summer, when their children miss out on the breakfasts and lunches provided in schools. How can they possibly make up for the missing food?

That’s when the Harry Chapin Food Bank’s mobile food pantry distributions are especially appreciated. It’s our most efficient way to distribute fresh, nutritious food directly to clients.

In FY 2015-16, we distributed 1,245,860 pounds of food — about 1,038,217 meals — through 500-plus mobile pantries and produce deliveries. A single mobile pantry provides food for as many as 250 families.

Your volunteer assistance helps us keep administrative and fundraising costs to just 3% of donations, with 97% going directly to programs and services. Watchdog group Charity Navigator gives the Food Bank four stars for cost-effectiveness and efficiency!

Your financial support is always appreciated!



Help Us Combat Senior Hunger

Almost 164,000 people in Southwest Florida are “food insecure” and may not know where their next meal is coming from.

About 15% of them — 24,600 — are seniors, according to Map the Meal Gap 2016. Many are faced with impossible choices: pay for food...or medical care...or housing.

Facing government cutbacks to our successful roll-out of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program this past year, we’re asking our dedicated donors and volunteers to contribute a few dollars specifically to help seniors in need.

We — and they — will be very grateful for your donations.

National Life Group Values Volunteering

When **National Life Group** brought its top producers to Southwest Florida for a four-day meeting, it wanted to reinforce its values on site — “Do good. Be good. Make good.” Having worked with a “great” food bank near its Vermont headquarters, said Shelia Cleary, AVP recognition and conferences, the insurance company approached the Harry Chapin Food Bank for ideas. The outcome: 35 volunteers spent a fun and fulfilling afternoon packing 2,400 hygiene kits. “This was our first drive,” she noted, “and our attendees loved it!”

Why hygiene kits? Because people who are food insecure also have other unmet needs. “Our people really understood the message,” Cleary noted. “It gave them the chance to give back to the local community, make a difference in people’s lives, and get to know their colleagues who had come from around the country.”

Food Bank Hosts Appreciation Dinner!



More than 200 volunteers attending this year’s Appreciation Dinner were honored



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

FORT MYERS:

3760 Fowler St.

Fort Myers, Florida 33901

NAPLES:

2221 Corporation Blvd.

Naples, Florida 34109

Phone: (239) 334-7007

harrychapinfoodbank.org

for thousands of hours of service to the Harry Chapin Food Bank. Bob and Karen Cochran (top right) proudly display “Why I Volunteer” T-shirts, while director of operations Eric Hitzeman (far right) toasts his tablemates for all their efforts.



**CONTACT US TO VOLUNTEER, DONATE
or SCHEDULE A TOUR: (239) 334-7007**

Look for
us on:



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FLORIDA**
Florida's Food Bank Network