



Harry Chapin Food Bank OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Notes from Harry

Serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties

Spring Newsletter 2019 | Vol. XIX, No. 2

Volunteers needed to help Stamp Out Hunger May 11



The Letter Carriers' National #StampOutHunger Food Drive is Saturday, May 11, and the Harry Chapin Food Bank needs more than **300 volunteers** in Lee County to help.

This is the nation's **largest single-day food drive**, when letter carriers collect non-perishable food that has been left by mailboxes. It is also the largest single-day food drive for the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

Locally, the Harry Chapin Food Bank and the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee Counties partner with the letter carriers to make the food drive happen. Food collected in Lee County will be distributed by the food bank and several other agencies.

Volunteers are needed to set up, help unload the food and do preliminary food sorting at six different post offices in Lee County.

To sign-up to help, log in to the Harry Chapin Food Bank volunteer information center at <https://bit.ly/2qjyUKr>.

If you're new to Harry Chapin Food Bank, sign up to volunteer at <https://bit.ly/2qG3PRd> and put Letter Carriers Food Drive in the Group Code Box.

For more information, contact Anna Suarez, director of human resources & administration, at (239) 334-7007 ext. 114 or asuarez@harrychapinfoodbank.org.

Food kits help feed hungry families

The Harry Chapin Food Bank has a new program to help families who may not know where their next meal is coming from. It's called **Harry's Helpings**.

The pilot program began in November. Families receive food kits, or boxes, that contain a variety of nutritious, non-perishable foods. The kits provide **15 to 20 pounds of food** and can be enough to prepare an average of **15 meals, serving entire families**.

They include canned vegetables and canned meat, cereal, spaghetti, macaroni and cheese, soups and stews, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, rice and beans.

The kits are distributed at partner sites during scheduled events, said Monica Correa, food bank child programs coordinator. They include two schools in Lee County, one an elementary school and one a high school. The kits are also distributed at the Boys & Girls Club of Charlotte County.



Allyson and Brooklyn

"I think the program is amazing," said Lynn Dorler, club executive director. "The families are so appreciative of the food. It is a huge help."

Other one-time distributions have been held at the Lee County Homeless Coalition and at a health fair.

The kits are given out in the schools

or sites where in-school pantries aren't feasible because of the school's location, lack of transportation to the site, the capacity to store food or the staff to manage it, Correa said. "This is a solution."

There have been 18 distributions since the program began, with 75 kits given out at each distribution, for a total of 1,350 kits so far.

"Right now, they're relying on the food we receive from food drives," Correa said. "Soon they will need an independent source of support to buy the food we need."

To donate in support of this program, contact Miriam Pereira, director of development, at (239) 334-7007 ext. 127 or mpereira@harrychapinfoodbank.org.

Photos: Clients at a Harry's Helping distribution at the Boys & Girls Club of Charlotte County.



Nathan and Nevin



KaRon and Therese

This Issue

- 2 Matching grant
- 3 WINK Feeds Families Hunger Walk
- 4 "Let's Feed" food drives
- 6 Birthday gifts of food to fight hunger
- 7 Volunteer appreciation dinner



Richard LeBer
Harry Chapin Food Bank
President & CEO

Getting food to people where and when they need it

I often talk about how **40 percent of the food grown in America gets wasted**. Once people get over being appalled, their next reaction is often, “With so much food, how can anyone go hungry?”

That gets to the heart of the food bank and its mission. While there’s no shortage of food, there are often shortages of good food in a usable form at an affordable price, in the right place at the right time. If you’re hungry – in Cape Coral, let’s say – it does you no good to be told that we can feed you next week in Lehigh Acres.

We work on these issues every day. How can we match up available food with needs in our communities?

How can we package it up in ways that are convenient for hungry families? How can we do all that as efficiently as possible?

This newsletter is full of examples of how your food bank works hard to help people. It’s why we run pantries in schools. It’s why we operate mobile pantries. It’s why the new Harry’s Helpings food box program is important.

We couldn’t do any of this without you. Thanks for helping us make all this possible!

Matching grant deadline is June 30



A grant from the Richard M. Schulze Family

Foundation will **match up to \$300,000** in donations to the Harry Chapin Food Bank when donors designate their gifts to our Care & Share: Senior Feeding Campaign. The food bank’s goal is to fulfill the match by June 30.

The Care & Share program supplements the diets of 2,350 seniors age 60 and over in Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties who qualify. There are more than 600 clients on a waitlist for the program. A donation of **\$500 can feed a senior for a year**.



The seniors receive kits containing canned fruits and vegetables, protein, grains, cereal and other food each month. When possible, the food bank will also provide bread, produce, deli, dairy and meats to clients.

The program costs **\$1.1 million per year** to operate. The food bank seeks your help in continuing to provide supplemental food to our seniors in need.

Walmart ready to ignite annual hunger fight

Walmart’s 2019 “Fight Hunger. Spark Change” national campaign continues through May 20 at all Walmart and Sam’s Club stores. The campaign benefits Feeding America and its network of 200 food banks, including the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

Funds donated locally will benefit our food bank. Here are a few ways to participate:

Purchase participating products:

Walmart is partnering with several of its suppliers, which will donate the

equivalent of one meal for each of their participating products sold. The suppliers include General Mills, Kellogg, Pepsico, Bush Brothers, Conagra, Post and JM Smucker.

- **Donate at the register:** Consumers may donate to the campaign when checking out at their local Walmart or Sam’s Club.
- **Use the Walmart Credit Card:** Synchrony Bank will donate the monetary equivalent of one meal for each Walmart Credit Card



transaction made at Walmart and Sam’s Club stores during the campaign.

Visit Walmart.com/FightHunger for further details.

WINK Feeds Families Hunger Walk 2019

Our 2019 Hunger Walk raised a **total of \$345,549**. We thank all our sponsors, as well as those who participated in the walk at the Miriomas Outlets in Estero. Once again, presenting sponsors for the walk were Bill Smith Appliances & Electronics and the Copperleaf Charitable Foundation.

"Copperleaf has been supporting the Harry Chapin hunger walk for **nine years** with over **\$60,000**," said Ed Donahue, a member of the foundation's board of trustees. "That translates to **\$480,000** worth of food. We feel that this contribution can help more seniors, children and needy

neighbors in our immediate area more than any other organization in our area."

In addition, Billy Fuccillo of Fuccillo Kia surprised us with a **HUGE donation of \$100,000** to ensure that we met our Hunger Walk goal. We are grateful for everyone's support!

Title Sponsor

**WINK
NEWS**

Presenting Sponsors

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Emergency pantries help during federal shutdown

A crisis doesn't always come in the form of a natural disaster. Plenty of crises are man-made. The recent partial federal government shutdown was one of them, and Harry Chapin Food Bank stepped in to help those who were hurting in our community.

Local Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officials said **393 employees were affected by the shutdown**. We held two emergency mobile pantries in January at Southwest Florida International Airport, focusing on TSA and air traffic controllers, but open to all federal employees struggling to make ends meet due to the loss of pay.

The pantries were held in conjunction with the United Way of Lee, Hendry,

Glades and Okeechobee Counties, Lee County Human & Veteran Services and the Southwest Florida Community Foundation.

The food bank distributed more than 6,500 pounds of food to about 270 households at the two pantries. Many of the recipients came to realize what we at the food bank know about the clients we serve – that hunger often results from trying to make ends meet in the face of life's emergencies,



whether it's loss of work, an accident, an illness, the death of a loved one or some other life-changing issue.

Sarah Fitzsimons

was one of the TSA employees who received food from the pantry. "I now fully comprehend what they mean about 'food insecurity'," she said.

They were grateful for the help.

Barbara Powell, federal security director at Southwest Florida International Airport, wrote us a note: "Thank you for doing everything in your power to blunt the emotional impact. Professionally and personally, I will be forever grateful to you for meeting their needs and preserving their dignity."

Top: Federal TSA employees receive food at an emergency mobile pantry distribution during the government shutdown.

Left: Sarah Fitzsimons, TSA employee.

"Let's Feed" food drives bring in more than 45 tons of food

The Harry Chapin Food Bank's February "Let's Feed" food drives in Collier, Charlotte and Lee counties brought in an amazing **93,555 pounds** of food and **\$20,214 in donations**.

The food bank partnered with Publix Super Markets for the drives. Residents who shopped at a Publix in their county on drive day were invited to purchase one or more items that the people we serve need most. Shoppers donated the items to food bank staff and volunteers at the store.

"Those who participated showed incredible support for our mission to lead our community in the fight to end hunger," said Richard LeBer, food bank president and CEO. "We can't thank them enough."

Food drive results

	Pounds	Donations
Let's Feed Lee	49,544	\$9,802
Let's Feed Collier	32,837	\$8,192
Let's Feed Charlotte	11,174	\$2,220
TOTAL	93,555	\$20,214



Melissa and Sebastian, 9 months, donated at the Gladiolus Gateway Publix in Lee County.

Harry's photo album



Bob and Karen Cochran enjoying our annual volunteer appreciation dinner.



Local managers from Dunkin' delivered a \$3,000 check from Dunkin's Joy in Childhood Foundation.



Patricia Zelkowitz showed off the 10-year pin she received at the appreciation dinner honoring our volunteers.



Instead of receiving gifts on her birthday, Lucy Funari collected 43 pounds of food, with the help of her sister Ruby (left) and brother Ben (right).



Macy's staff members volunteered at our Fort Myers Distribution Center.



We were named Collier County Business of the Month for March by the Collier County Commission and the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce.



Cotton and Helen Ellis donated \$264.44 worth of food on Feb. 23 at the Let's Feed Lee food drive at the Publix at Crossroads Shopping Plaza in Lehigh Acres.



We distributed 20,856 pounds of food to families at mobile pantries while Lee County schools were on spring break.



Tristan Johnson, 12, of Fort Myers, raised \$75 for the food bank at a lemonade stand he set up in his neighborhood. Tristan is on the left with his friend Noah, 8, on the right.

Help make Sarah Cabrera's 18,000 birthday wishes come true

Turning 18 is a right of passage, and some decide to celebrate their official entrance into adulthood by throwing a giant party.



Sarah Cabrera with the food she collected at her birthday food drive in 2017.

Since she turned 11, she has held a food drive at the time of her birthday, asking for donations of food instead of presents.

Sarah Cabrera has decided to celebrate by throwing a giant food drive.

Cabrera will be 18 years old on June 30. But she has been acting like a grown-up for many years when it comes to recognizing the problem of hunger in our community and wanting to help.

This year, she's set her sights on a much loftier goal. She wants to collect 18,000 pounds for her 18th birthday. She's calling it "18 for 18."

Cabrera is going all out, creating a marketing kit with flyers, posters, information about the Harry Chapin Food Bank and an 18 for 18 Sarah's Birthday Food Drive Facebook page. She's convinced about 20 area businesses to partner with her, as well as Florida SouthWestern State College and the Cape Coral Police Department. The food drive will be held from **late April to May 31**.

Cabrera's interest in nonprofits is such that she asked for an internship in the food bank's volunteer department. She is dually-enrolled at North Fort Myers High School and Florida SouthWestern State College. The plan is for her to receive her associate degree in Spring 2020.

"Many kids believe that they are too

young to make a difference," Cabrera said. "But I believe the total opposite, you can make a difference no matter what age you are."

Cabrera wants to get her business degree and hopes to someday open her own nonprofit. We believe in your tomorrow, Sarah. Thanks for showing us how you care today.

To participate, call or text Cabrera at 941-888-4366 or email her at scabrera630@gmail.com. Visit her Facebook page: facebook.com/Sarahsfooddrive.



Our gratitude continues to grow

Bank of America Give a Meal



Bank of America's 7th annual **Give a Meal fundraiser** brought in an amazing **\$91,521** for the food bank. We are grateful for the bank's continued and generous support of our mission to lead our community in the fight to end hunger.

Taste of Boca Grande



The 17th annual Taste of Boca Grande on Feb. 4 **raised \$62,750**. We thank all the restaurants, sponsors and patrons who participated and the publications that helped promote it.

Scripps Grant



SCRIPPS HOWARD
FOUNDATION

Many thanks to the Bob Scripps Community Fund of the Scripps Howard Foundation and WFTX for the recent **\$3,000 grant** to help the food

bank fight hunger. Your generosity is greatly appreciated. The foundation partners with Scripps brands to create awareness of local issues, and supports impactful organizations to drive solutions.



Right: Volunteer Anne Peatross shows off the T-shirt given out at our annual volunteer appreciation dinner.



Volunteer appreciation dinner

About **200 people attended our annual Volunteer appreciation dinner** March 20 at the Holiday Inn Fort Myers Airport Town Center. We had a bluegrass band, door prizes, service awards, a 50/50 raffle and gave out commemorative T-shirts to our dedicated volunteers. A good time was had by all!

If you'd like to know more about joining our army of volunteers, visit harrychapinfoodbank.org/donate/volunteer.

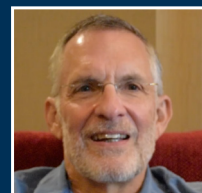
Reasons why I volunteer

Patty Petrick



"I feel like what I do in the community is equally as important as what I do every day at my job," said Patty Petrick, Bank of America region operations manager. "Our associates have an impact in the community with the hours they volunteer, and they touch many lives. I'm proud of our team." they volunteer, and they touch many lives. I'm proud of our team."

Jim Penn



"I moved to Florida back in 2008 behind the recession, and I wanted to do something that had an impact. I was lucky enough to find the Harry Chapin Food Bank. You meet the best people, and you feel such a sense of accomplishment at the end of a shift. Everybody so is supportive."

Family Volunteer Day

Kids and parents helped our neighbors in need during family volunteer day on March 30. Participants at our Fort Myers Distribution Center **packed 1,599 pounds of potatoes** and volunteers at our Collier County Center **packed 3,850 pounds of potatoes plus 480 bags** for our Care & Share: Senior Feeding Campaign. Thanks for your hard work! The next Family Volunteer Day will be June 1.



Above: Left: Isa Quiroz and Madlyn Nice sort potatoes at Family Volunteer Day in Fort Myers. Right: Chenna Spiess packed food kits for our Care & Share: Senior Feeding Campaign at our Collier County Center.





Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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



Leave a legacy

Your support of the Harry Chapin Food Bank demonstrates your commitment to ending hunger in Southwest Florida. Please consider the Harry Chapin Food Bank when planning your will or estate. For more information, contact Miriam Pereira: (239) 334-7007 ext. 127 mpereira@harrychapinfoodbank.org.

Fort Myers Distribution Center
3760 Fowler St.
Fort Myers, FL 33901

Collier County Center
3940 Prospect Ave. #101
Naples, FL 34104

Find us on social media



Harry's happenings

- Saturday, May 11 - **Letter Carriers' Food Drive**
- Saturday, June 1 - **Family Volunteer Day**
9 to 11:30 a.m., Collier County Center
9 to 11:30 a.m., Fort Myers Distribution Center
- May 1 to 31 - **18 for 18 Sarah's Birthday Food Drive**
To participate, call or text Sarah at 941-888-4366 or email her at scabrera630@gmail.com. Visit facebook.com/sarahsfooddrive for more information.

How donations are used

\$1 equals \$8 worth of food value



- 4 percent of donations go to administration and funding
- 96 percent of donations go to programs and services

A copy of the Food Bank's official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state. For more information, contact the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs at 1-800-435-7352 or visit freshfromflorida.com.