



LOOKING AHEAD...

Still Time to Sign Up For Hunger Walk

Date: Jan. 21

Registration: 8:30 a.m.

Walk Start Time: 9:30 a.m.

Place: Miromar Outlets

The excitement is building for the **WINK News Feeds Families Hunger Walk!** And there is still time to become a sponsor, form a team or just take a two-mile walk to support the Harry Chapin Food Bank! Help us exceed our goal of raising \$300,000 that one day. Follow the Hunger Walk link at harrychapinfoodbank.org.



Participants made signs at last year's WINK News Feed Families Hunger Walk.

Empty Bowls Naples: A Delicious Donation

Date: Jan. 28

Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Place: Cambier Park

Your \$20 donation buys a charming pottery bowl, your choice of tasty soup from 45 participating restaurants to fill the bowl, and a fun day at **Empty Bowls Naples**. With your help we will surpass last year's \$97,000! Make sure to visit emptybowlsnaples.org

See page 5 for photos from **heARTS of Empty Bowls** and other events.

It's So Much More Than a Dollar!

The Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida can now rescue and distribute \$8 worth of food for every \$1 donated, thanks to continuously improved efficiencies and economies of scale. The new analysis surpasses our previous computation that every \$1 donated provided \$6 of food.

This is exciting news for our partner agencies that operate pantries, soup kitchens and other food programs, and for their clients in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties!

"When people make an investment in the Harry Chapin Food Bank, it's so much more than a dollar," said Richard LeBer, the Food Bank's president and CEO.

How can we multiply each donated dollar into \$8? First, we efficiently source food through growers, supermarkets and retail stores, community food drives and other means. Once the food reaches our docks, the Food Bank relies on its fleet of trucks, staff and thousands of volunteers to sort, pack and move the food

to its network of 150-plus partner agencies. These ultimately provide food to children, working-poor families, seniors and other people in need.

In FY 2016, the Food Bank distributed 20.6 million pounds of food — the equivalent of 17 million meals — 10 percent more than the previous year. Costs, though, didn't increase "because we're getting better at handling that food," said LeBer. The Food Bank estimates it will provide 21.9 million pounds of food in FY 2017 — with your generous support!



Voices of Those Who Face Hunger...

Joe, a retired optician, receives food and volunteers at a Lehigh Acres church through the Food Bank's senior food program: "So many times you have saved us with milk, bread, cans. I had tears in my eyes and am so appreciative of what this nonprofit is able to do..."

Linda came to Tice Methodist Church just days after her husband died: "I have a cleaning business with a few clients, but I'm having a hard time making ends meet. I used to volunteer here every Wednesday, and now here I am."

Sharon visits a mobile pantry distribution in Lehigh Acres: "My hours got cut back at work, and I have to make a choice between feeding my children or keeping a roof over their heads. So with you guys coming out, it's a god-send for my children. I know they can at least eat for a couple of days and go from there..."

Steve has a brain tumor and back injury: "I can't work. I didn't know about mobile pantries. It's hard to get around when you don't drive and can't get a license because of seizures. It's very tough out here and very scary."



Harry Chapin Food Bank OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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Fort Myers, Florida 33901

NAPLES:
2221 Corporation Blvd.
Naples, Florida 34109
Phone: (239) 334-7007

harrychapinfoodbank.org

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Until No One Goes Hungry...

The Harry Chapin Food Bank has lots of exciting plans. We are growing to meet the needs of the 1 in 7 of our neighbors who will experience hunger this year, and we're expanding mobile pantries, school programs and agency partnerships to serve them better.

We're working with new sources of food. We're investing in our facilities to support expanded programs, more community partners, more volunteers and more food. We're telling the story of hunger and of the vital work we do, loudly and clearly.

Our work is paying off! We're proud that every \$1 donated to the Food Bank results in \$8 worth of food distributed to the hungry (*see story on page 1*). You can also read stories in this newsletter about the people we serve. I am always struck by the energy, perseverance and optimism they exhibit in the face of daunting circumstances. It is an honor to serve them.

We depend on you to get this done. We look forward to working together with you in 2017 and beyond, until no one in our community has to go hungry. Thank you!



Richard LeBer, Harry Chapin Food Bank president and CEO



Angela Amos Joins Food Bank

Please welcome special events coordinator **Angela Amos** to the Harry Chapin Food Bank. After working as an event planner in the pharmaceutical industry and a fashion designer for Ralph Lauren, Urban Outfitters and Chico's, the New Jersey native brings her event planning experience to the Food Bank's signature annual event, WINK News Feeds Families Hunger Walk.

GRANTS AND DONATIONS

Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation:
\$200,000

Ethel & W. George Kennedy Family Foundation: \$80,000

United HealthCare: \$15,000

Bank of America Charitable Foundation:
\$12,500

Hoffer Family Foundation: \$11,000

Charles E. and Mary Elizabeth Scripps Foundation: \$10,000

CarMax Foundation: \$10,000

Al & Nancy Burnett Charitable Foundation: \$10,000

Cape Coral Community Foundation:
\$8,000

Arthrex, Inc.: \$7,500

The Kellogg Company: \$6,148.89

Wawa Foundation Inc.: \$6,000

Naples United Church of Christ: \$6,000

Dunkin' Donuts & Baskin Robbins

Community Foundation (Joy in Childhood): \$6,000

Suncoast Credit Union: \$4,000

PepsiCo Walmart Inc.: \$3,715.56

MVP Realty: \$3,500

Temple Beth El of Fort Myers: \$3,292

Southwest Florida Corvette Club:
\$3,000

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.

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

Look for us on:



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.

Packing Experience ‘Opens the Eyes’ Of Volunteers From Oracle Hospitality

As part of Oracle’s Global Volunteer Days, a team of 11 from **Oracle Hospitality** participated in a packing event at the Harry Chapin Food Bank’s Naples warehouse.

“I have volunteered at food banks before, so I was no stranger to their processes,” said Michelle Whittle, functional analyst and the event’s project leader. “But none of my colleagues had that experience. This event was a good way for us to get our feet wet volunteering at a food bank.”

The participants at this local, three-hour event contributed 33 hours and packed more than 5,000 pounds of sweet potatoes, which equaled 4,167 meals.

Company-wide volunteer efforts at Oracle resulted in more than 3,000 em-

ployees contributing 16,000 hours to 139 projects during Global Volunteer Days -- Oracle’s largest global volunteer initiative.

On site, Oracle Hospitality made the packing fun by splitting into two groups and competing over which would be faster at packing. Meantime, the volunteers were enlightened about food distribution and especially the need.

“The experience opened my colleagues’ eyes, and they were very appreciative that the Food Bank is here to help,” Whittle noted. Many of the participants expressed interest in the Food Bank’s mobile pantries, so Whittle anticipates the group will plan a volunteer day for mobile pantries and another food sorting day in 2017.

Developer Donates Via United Way

The Harry Chapin Food Bank will benefit from an unusual contribution to the **60th United Way Campaign**. David Fry, board member of both the Food Bank and the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee, will donate \$10,000 per residence sold at his new real estate development, The Place on First. It will support the Food Bank and the United Way’s Mission United program (which eases access to services for U.S. military veterans and their families).

WGPU Partners With Food Bank

First, the Harry Chapin Food Bank earned 140 promotional spots during **WGPU’s** October pledge drive. Then WGPU’s “**Feed Public Radio, Feed a Family**” campaign in December matched 15 cents for every dollar the Food Bank helped raise. Thank you all!



‘Give a Meal’ from Bank of America

Bank of America’s Give a Meal program finished its fifth year in partnership with Feeding America’s 200 food banks across the country, including the Harry Chapin Food Bank. For every \$1 donated to the program through Dec. 31, the **Bank of America Charitable Foundation** gave \$2 more — up to a \$50,000 match per food bank.

The 2015 program delivered \$42,090 for hunger relief to the Food Bank, which was awaiting final 2016 numbers at press time.

The Oracle Hospitality team gathers at the Food Bank’s Naples warehouse.



Become a corporate partner! Call (239) 334-7007

Jacobs Reflects on 24 Years at Food Bank

With Joyce Jacobs six months from her “retirement” day, we asked the Food Bank’s associate director for highlights from her “organizational memory” over 24 years of service:

- When friend John Poelker of Apple & MBA Transportation suggested she “get involved and do something” with the Food Bank, it “changed my life forever.” Her first “job” was board member, where she met Hawley Botchford, then the Food Bank’s executive director and now her husband of 20 years. “Feeding neighbors at risk of hunger quickly became my personal mission.” And it was hands on — from fundraising, media, accounting and loading trucks to finding food sources and partner agencies.

- The purchase and renovation of the Food Bank’s former building on Alicia Street brought together the City of Fort Myers, Lee County and private foundations for the first time.

- Harry Chapin’s widow Sandy and family are proud to see his legacy continue. Harry’s brother Steve Chapin and his band continue to come to help raise funds and awareness. This relationship came about due to John Poelker’s friendship with the late Harry Chapin and his family.

- “I’m very proud of our staff and volunteers, and everything they have accomplished. People want to give back and we just have to give them the opportunities to do so.”



Joyce Jacobs with Harry Chapin’s brother Steve.

Meet-and-Greet Events Introduce Local Residents to Food Bank

So far, the Harry Chapin Food Bank's new "Food for Thought" meet-and-greet events, which took place Sept. 28 and Nov. 2, drew 14 interested people for a tour, light breakfast, short presentation and conversation with Richard LeBer, president and CEO, about what the Food Bank does.

Leber posed a quick quiz that tested attendees' knowledge of the issue of hunger. Can you answer these two questions?

1. The official term for hunger is "food insecurity." How many Southwest

Floridians are food insecure? a. 20,000; b. 50,000; c. 95,000 or d. 165,000. (The correct answer is d.)

2. A family of four is considered to be living in poverty if the household income is below: a. \$16,350; b. \$19,250; c. \$24,300 or d. \$32,650. (The correct answer is c.)

The next event will be held Feb. 14, from 7:45 to 9 a.m. If you'd like to attend, please contact Meg Madzar at mmadzar@harrychapinfoodbank.org.



Richard LeBer, the Food Bank's president and CEO, leads a discussion at the new "Food for Thought" events.

The Effectiveness of Mobile Pantries

Harry Chapin Food Bank's two mobile pantry trucks are busier than ever, with five to six distributions a week delivering food (and outreach services) to families in need. Sponsors like **UnitedHealthcare**, with its recent \$15,000 grant, just added five distributions and 10 to 12 volunteers at each.

Here's what makes a mobile pantry distribution so effective: Each truck carries up to 8,000 pounds of food, enough to feed up to 250 families. "We always try to have at least two varieties of fresh produce, along with frozen meat items

repacked into 3-to-5-pound bags," said Louise Bain, programs outreach coordinator. With canned and dry goods like cereal, rice and beans, "each family can get up to 40 pounds of food."

Wraparound health and social services that can be provided during mobile pantry distributions are especially valuable in areas without easy transportation (Hendry County), or a grocery store (Glades County). **Charlotte County Extension Service's** Food and Nutrition Program, for example, is planning to provide nutritional information plus cooking demonstrations using items in the pantry truck.

Healthy Start of Southwest Florida recently organized a health fair at a migrant camp outside of Moore Haven in Glades County. Ten organizations and the Food Bank's mobile pantry provided outreach to the residents, serving 78 families who have limited access to food and vitally important health services.



A young resident of a migrant camp benefited from a recent Food Bank mobile pantry distribution and health fair with 10 service providers.

COMING UP...

What: 4th annual Stuff the Bus Food Drive
When: Feb. 19, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: 10 Publix locations United Way of Collier County, Publix Super Markets, Collier Area Transit and the Food Bank team up to help food pantries in Collier.
www.volunteercollier.com/STB2017

What: Give Where You Live 24-Hour Challenge
When: Feb. 29 Noon to March 1 Noon
Where: Online
Organized by the Community Foundation of Collier county. Every gift will be multiplied through matching funds by the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation.
GiveWhereYouLiveCollier.org

THANK YOU!

Publix: A Great Partner

In the fall, **Publix Super Markets'** Food for Sharing program netted 326,296 pounds of food for the Food Bank! As the holidays approached, store customers picked \$1, \$3 or \$5 donation coupons to benefit the Food Bank in Publix's Food For All campaign. Thanks for the great support!



Holiday Heroes

The Holiday Heroes Food Drive sponsored by the **Cape Coral Police Department** generated a \$1,000 check and 13,000 pounds of food from **Caldwell & Kerry Advertising**. Add food drives at Christa McAuliffe Elementary and Oasis Charter Elementary, plus collections at three Cape Coral **Walmart** locations, and the total came to \$2,881 and 18,000 pounds of food for the Food Bank!

Can your company or group sponsor a mobile pantry?
Call Tanya at (239) 334-7007 x141

Harry Chapin Food Bank Photo Gallery

Find more photos at harrychapinfoodbank.org



(left) Artist Betty Newman with art work at the heARTS for Empty Bowls gallery event.

(right) A group of volunteers from The Westin Cape Coral Resort took time to sort food at the Food Bank.



(right) Packing food was a breeze for Walmart volunteers at the Fort Myers warehouse.

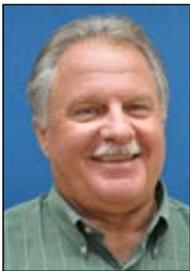


(right) Students from Canterbury School volunteer at the Food Bank.



In Memoriam

The entire Harry Chapin Food Bank family mourns the passing of **Ray Pavelka**, a great supporter, board leader and friend. The Cleveland native arrived on Sanibel/Captiva in 1972. He held senior management positions with The Mariner Group, and later was owner/operator of Mariner Properties Development and Little Pine Island Mitigation Bank.



“He did so much for the Harry Chapin Food Bank over the years quietly and with real humility,” said former CEO Al Brislain. “He was a successful businessman with a real heart for helping people and for serving his community.”

His family, friends and colleagues shared warm memories during a memorial service last September.

Your donations mean so much to our neighbors in need. We invite you to tour the warehouse and learn how you can make a difference! Call 334-7007.

Service Award Honors Volunteer Ron Jacoby

Ron Jacoby couldn't just “retire” after 30 years of service with UPS. So since moving to Southwest Florida from West Virginia, he has accumulated 800 volunteer hours across a range of Harry Chapin Food Bank activities — the Commodity Supplemental Food Program distributions to seniors in need; food drives; mobile pantries; sorting and packing donated food; and special events. Behind the scenes, he goes the “extra mile” for those in need and even recruits relatives, friends and neighbors to volunteer. “I’m glad to be able to help others,” he said.

Good reasons, along with his other volunteer work for Community Cooperative’s Home Delivered Meals program, why the **Lee County Homeless Coalition** named him winner of the **Dean Blietz Annual Memorial Award for Outstanding Community Service**. (And this avid hockey and baseball fan even finds time for woodworking and refurbishing old trunks.) Congratulations!



Jacoby receives Dean Blietz Annual Memorial Award for Outstanding Community Service.

Pantry at Family Church of Marco Doesn't Turn Anyone Away

After hearing how many children receive free or reduced-cost meals at school, a group of volunteers at the **Family Church of Marco** decided to start collecting food and then find the people in need. They acquired some racks and some donations, and opened the pantry doors one year ago.

Families began to slowly stream in. Today, the pantry is open from 10 a.m. to Noon the second and fourth Saturdays of the month and serves 600 people during that time. "The need picks up from July to September, when service workers' hours are cut," explained Jo Anne Lundquist, operations coordinator for the pantry, which is the Harry Chapin Food Bank's first partner agency on Marco Island. "It's been pretty overwhelming, but we're getting a handle on the need. We don't turn anyone away."

The client-choice pantry allows families to select food they prefer. In high demand are the "retail rescue" foods that the Food Bank is able to provide — fresh produce, fruit, and frozen meat. The pantry

uses three refrigerators and four freezers donated for this purpose.

It has truly become a "community" food pantry. Nine churches on the island are now involved, donating food, providing volunteers, or giving money from their mission. And the pantry is working with Greater Marco Family YMCA daycare and after-school families, as well as migrant families at Lipman Farm. "It's been a blessing to people we can serve," Lundquist said, "and also to those who want to help. And it's been a great relationship with the Food Bank."



How to Create A Lasting Legacy

You can help support the Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida and create a lasting legacy through **planned giving**. Gifts can take many forms, from cash bequests to gifts in-kind (real estate, securities and other tangible property) or life insurance policies.

Talk to your financial and legal advisors about the best options for you and your estate. Once you are satisfied that loved ones are taken care of, please consider making a charitable bequest to strengthen and sustain the community you have helped to build.

Contact Kelli King to schedule a meeting or a tour: (239) 334-7007 x202 or kellingking@harrychapin-foodbank.org.

Families in need at the pantry of Family Church of Marco choose fresh food thanks to the Harry Chapin Food Bank's retail rescue programs.

Turn Work Into Fun
Volunteering is one
of the most satisfying
activities in life, and
at the Food Bank
it is also fun!
Call 334-7007

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

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