



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

VOLUNTEER VIBES

Serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties

February 2018

YOU Helped Make Hunger Walk A Huge Success!

More than 75 volunteers — the most ever — made the 10th annual **WINK Feeds Families Hunger Walk** operate without a hitch, as the **Harry Chapin Food Bank** raised \$305,000 to feed the hungry in Southwest Florida.

Perfect weather brought together young and old to stroll the two-mile route around Miromar Outlets in Estero.

“We’re so excited and touched by the support of our community,” said Richard LeBer, president and CEO of the Food Bank. “Every year the Hunger Walk gets



bigger and bigger, and we serve more and more people.”

Volunteers were everywhere, helping to register walkers; distribute T-shirts; assist with sponsor giveaways; sell raffle tickets; and aid walkers in creating “Why I Walk” signage. Florida SouthWestern State College students and Target employees served as volunteer guides along the walk route.

The Hunger Walk is presented by Bill Smith Electronics & Appliances and the Copperleaf Charitable Foundation. Lead sponsor is the Lee County Sheriff’s Office. Gold sponsors are CenturyLink, 7-Eleven, Lipman, Suncoast Credit Union, and Tammiami Ford-Hyundai-Genesis.

THANK YOU ALL!



(l to r) Volunteers Tom Gemmer, Sue Rhoads and Scott Rhoads helped some young walkers make their signs.

SAVE THE DATES...

- **Saturday, Feb. 24, 9 to 11:30 a.m.: Family Volunteer Day.** Children learn how to help those in our community who are hungry.
- **Monday, Feb. 26: Harry Chapin Food Bank Night at the 94th Annual Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair.** Every person who brings three cans of food gets free admission. Gates at the Lee Civic Center open at 4 p.m.
- **Wednesday, March 28: Annual Volunteer Dinner at Holiday Inn Fort Myers Airport at Town Center.** Watch for your invitation.
- **Saturday, April 7, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Aviation Day at Page Field.** There is no admission fee, but attendees are asked to bring a donation for the Food Bank.
- **Saturday, May 12: 26th Annual Letter Carriers’ Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.** To volunteer, call Tanya Phillips at (239) 334-7007, ext. 141.



Volunteers at the VIP tent (above) flank Food Bank President and CEO Richard LeBer (center) before the crowd of walkers got started (top right).

TRACKING OUR VOLUNTEERS

(FY 2018 July 1, 2017, to Jan. 31, 2018)

- Volunteers: 4,108**
- Collier County hours: 3,719**
- Mobile pantry hours: 4,908**
- Total hours: 23,582**
- Value of volunteer hours: \$569,269.48**
- Pounds packed/sorted: 2,611,553**
- Total meals: 2,176,294**

Volunteers Step Up At Holiday Season

Our Southwest Florida community made the holidays a real “season of giving,” with 267 separate food drives and donation deliveries coming through the Food Bank’s “donation door.” The food moved quickly to those in need, thanks to our dedicated volunteer corps.

Each day in December, four shifts of volunteers worked at the Fort Myers warehouse’s donation door, as people brought in turkeys or emptied their pantries. Other volunteers picked up food from large drives off-site. And volunteers at mobile pantry distributions during the month brought food out to the community. The month’s donations increased 60 percent, from 31,660 pounds in December 2016 to 50,653 pounds in December 2017.

Your financial support is always appreciated!

Brooks & Freund (and Friends) Give Back to the Community

Once or twice a year, employees at **Brooks & Freund** enthusiastically visit the Harry Chapin Food Bank for a “pack and sort” afternoon. And in the month leading up to the event, the construction management and general contracting company invites its suppliers and subcontractors to participate in a non-perishable food drive.

So on a December day, 10 volunteers brought 281 pounds of food and a cash donation to the Food Bank. They then packed 4,050 pounds of produce equal to 3,375 meals in two-and-a-half hours.



Brooks & Freund volunteers made the holidays a little better for those in need of food.

“Most of our staff takes part,” said Jesse Olsovsky, project manager. “This year, instead of setting up a competitive scenario, we took a team approach. To keep the packing process from slowing down, floaters filled in where they were needed.”

“Everyone really enjoys helping the Food Bank,” noted Hilary Freund, business development associate. “For them, it’s about giving back to the community.”

New Volunteer Opportunity: Mobile Pantry Captain

In this role, you will check in volunteers and act as liaison between driver and volunteers. If you are interested, request a job description and sign up with Tanya for training at (239) 334-7007, ext. 141.

Remembering Ned Moore

A big part of **Ned Moore’s** life in Naples was the Harry Chapin Food Bank, and he was an equally big part of our volunteer family. For six-and-a-half years and more than 400 volunteer hours, Ned was a constant presence at our Collier County warehouse and at mobile pantry and Care & Share: Senior Feeding Campaign distributions. All of his colleagues were saddened to learn of his untimely death and send our deepest condolences to wife, Shirley, his family and friends.



Post-Hurricane Irma, Harry Chapin Food Bank volunteers help set up a mobile pantry every Wednesday in Everglades City (left). Until the local pantry is rebuilt, we will continue to serve 70 to 75 families there each week.

35 Reasons to Volunteer at the Food Bank

First in a series, as we celebrate the Food Bank’s 35th anniversary in 2018.

Polly and Greg Turmelle: *“We live half the year in New Hampshire (where we’ve volunteered for years), the other half in Cape Coral. Four years ago we learned about the Harry Chapin Food Bank from a neighbor and have been volunteering ever since. Thursday is our day to pack and sort at the warehouse, and we’ve helped at a few mobile pantries. The whole operation is mind-boggling! We’ve made wonderful friendships, but more importantly, we love giving back to the community and to people who need extra help.”*



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

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