



Hurray for Harry's Heroes!

At Orange River Elementary School, kids who often face hunger themselves gave from their hearts to help feed others, and Harry Chapin Food Bank is grateful.

The school, located in the Tice community in Fort Myers, has 843 students. Of those students, 89.5% come from families with low incomes. Yet the children decided they wanted to help those in our community who struggle with hunger by participating in the WINK Feeds Families Hunger Walk, the signature fundraiser for Harry Chapin Food Bank.



Orange River Elementary School students walk to fight hunger.

They knew they couldn't attend the Hunger Walk, held in January, as a group. So they decided to help by holding their own Hunger Walk at their school. The idea came from students in their National Elementary Honor Society. They planned and held the event within a week and raised more than \$2,000. "I think it's amazing what we accomplished," said Jameele Sicajan, a fifth-grader who is honor society president.

School Principal Cayce Staruk was also amazed at their effort and caring. "The whole school gave and our students don't have a lot to give," she said. "A lot of kids go hungry."

Harry Chapin Food Bank staff paid a surprise visit to the school recently to say thank you. John Kuhn, special events manager, gave the honor society students

orange ribbons with the words "Harry's Heroes" to recognize their achievement. He also gave a trophy featuring "Walking Harry," the Hunger Walk mascot, to Jameele, and a large trophy to Principal Staruk for display in the school's trophy case.

WINK News Anchor Lois Thome, a Harry Chapin Food Bank board member, was also there and thanked the children. "What great hearts you have. You need to know how much of a difference you're making in people's lives," she said. "You're my heroes."

The students loved the chance to give back to their community, and Principal Staruk thinks the school will make this an annual event. "It will get bigger and better each year," she said.



Honor Society President Jameele Sicajan

Help Post a Victory Over Hunger

We're gearing up for the 28th annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive on Saturday, May 9!

This is the nation's largest single-day food drive, when letter carriers throughout the country do double duty, delivering mail and collecting non-perishable food items that residents put out at their mailboxes. It is also the largest single-day food drive for Harry Chapin Food Bank, and we'll need about 300 volunteers to help make it happen.

The National Association of Letter Carriers food drive grew out of repeated community service efforts over the years by various branches of the letter carriers' union to help feed those in need. The date of the second Saturday in May for a national drive was chosen after feedback from food banks across the country showed that this is when most of them start running out of donations received over the holidays.

On May 9, volunteers for Harry Chapin Food Bank will be stationed at six different post offices in Lee County, where they will help unload food picked up by letter carriers and other volunteer drivers on their routes, then do preliminary sorting of tens of thousands of pounds of food. It's hard but rewarding work, and we invite you to be part of our team!

Locally, Harry Chapin Food Bank and the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee Counties partner with the letter carriers in this annual event. Last year, the letter carriers' food drive brought in 337,449 pounds of food in Lee County and Immokalee. Immokalee is included because it is part of the National Association of Letter Carriers' union local.



 Volunteer at 2019 Letter Carriers' Food Drive

Of that total, Harry Chapin Food Bank received 226,452 pounds.

If you're new to Harry Chapin Food Bank and would like to volunteer for the letter carriers' food drive, go to our volunteer page at harrychapinfoodbank.org and sign up. Existing volunteers can log in to the volunteer information center and choose their shift for that event.

For more information, contact Lori Harrington, volunteer manager, at 239.334.7007 ext. 141 or lharrington@harrychapinfoodbank.org.

Leave a Legacy Consider a Gift of Life Insurance

If your insurance policy is no longer needed, you could simply change Harry Chapin Food Bank to be the primary beneficiary of the existing policy. If your loved ones still need the security of the policy, consider listing Harry Chapin Food Bank as the contingent beneficiary. We would be happy to help you explore special giving opportunities.

For more information, contact Barbara Evans, chief development officer, at 239.334.6881 or baevans@harrychapinfoodbank.org.

He Broadcasts Food Bank Message

Matt Mangas knows what it's like to be successful.

And he knows what it's like to be hungry.

Matt and his wife moved to Southwest Florida where Matt quickly became a well-known radio personality. Matt is the midday host on WRXK-FM (96K-Rock) and is the program director at 96K-Rock and WJPT-FM (Sunny 106.3), of the Beasley Media Group. Matt's wife had a flourishing real estate business. She was so successful that Matt became a stay-at-home dad to take care of their young daughter.

For Matt and his family, experiencing hunger came when the real estate bubble burst and the Great Recession hit in 2007-2008. Millions across the country lost their jobs and their homes, and for a while, Lee County became the foreclosure capital of the nation.

Matt and his family found themselves in a home that they couldn't afford. They were quickly without food, without income and with a mountain of debt. Matt's wife, desperate for food told her husband that they had to go to a church to get food. And Matt balked. "I was embarrassed and wouldn't go with her, because I knew so many people in town and just didn't think I could face anything like that," he said.

The church pantry his wife had gone to was part of Harry Chapin Food Bank's Partner Agency Program, which distributes food to a network of more than 150 agencies across Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, Glades and Lee counties. She came home with several boxes of food.



 Matt Mangas

Matt mustered the courage to go to the pantry the next time with his wife and what he found was lifesaving. He found more than nourishment, he found helpers, he found humanity.

"I was able to get back on my feet and re-establish my career; and now when Harry Chapin Food Bank comes calling, I want to use the power of my radio program and all the resources I have here at Beasley Media Group to help the food bank in any way I can."

Publix Customers Come Through During Food Drive

We are thrilled to report that the inaugural Feeding Southwest Florida food drive held on Feb. 8 across three counties in partnership with Publix Super Markets collected 92,647 pounds of food and \$23,448 in contributions!

The Feeding Southwest Florida food drive was a major effort in

all 62 Publix stores throughout Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties. We are grateful to Publix for their steadfast partnership in our mission to lead our community in the fight to end hunger and to the numerous volunteers and Publix customers who helped make Feeding Southwest Florida a success!



 Food drive volunteers at the Publix Shoppes at Grande Oaks in Estero.

Schulze Match Helps Seniors Who Struggle

A \$350,000 challenge match for our Care and Share: Senior Feeding Program is being generously offered through the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation. Your gift will be fully matched – dollar for dollar – and make twice the impact for the seniors enrolled in this program.

The Care and Share: Senior Feeding Program aims to supplement the diets of seniors who have low incomes. Harry

Chapin Food Bank works with selected partner agencies and senior housing sites to not only identify participants but also to serve as distribution centers for the program.

Eligible seniors age 60 and over receive kits containing canned fruits and vegetables, canned protein, cheese, milk, grains, cereal, and other food each month. When possible, we provide fresh produce, frozen meats and bread with these kits.

A donation of \$500 can feed a senior for a year. Many of these seniors face the difficult choice of paying for rent, utilities, and medication, or buying food. We seek your help in continuing to provide supplemental food to our seniors in need. To make a gift, please visit harrychapinfoodbank.org.



Rotary Rocks!



We received a wonderful and much-needed gift recently from nearly every Rotary Club in Rotary District 6960: collectively, they provided Harry Chapin Food Bank the funds to help purchase a new refrigerated truck! We are so grateful for their support. The new truck will join a fleet of 16 trucks that deliver food to Harry Chapin Food Bank programs, including the Partner Agency Program that distributes to more than 150 nonprofit partner agencies throughout Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties.

Kickoff of Walmart Campaign April 13

Walmart's 2020 "Fight Hunger. Spark Change" national campaign starts April 13 and continues through May 11 to help Feeding America and its network of 200 member food banks, including Harry Chapin Food Bank.



The goal of the seventh annual campaign is to raise awareness of hunger issues and engage the public in working with Feeding America member food banks to address hunger locally.

The campaign has raised \$100 million to fight hunger since it began, with the majority of funds benefiting local food banks. This year, the total number of dollars available is \$2.25 million.

In 2019, the campaign brought in more than \$126,000 for Harry Chapin Food Bank. You can participate by purchasing

participating products or donating at your local Walmart or Sam's Club.

Here's how:

- Product purchase: Walmart is partnering with several suppliers that will donate the equivalent of one meal for each of their participating products sold. So far, the list includes Campbell Soup Company, Clorox/Hidden Valley products, Nature Nate's and PepsiCo. The list will be updated as more suppliers come on board.
- Register giving: You can donate to the campaign in \$1, \$2 or \$5 increments or choose another amount when checking out at your local Walmart or Sam's Club.

The meals and funds donated locally will benefit Harry Chapin Food Bank!

Couple Finds Food Bank a Good Fit

Rick and Joan Laboda were seeking a way to help feed the hungry when they moved to Bonita Springs nearly three years ago, and they found their niche at Harry Chapin Food Bank.

Rick, a former vice president, consumer market manager for Bank of America, previously volunteered with another food bank in the Atlanta area before he retired and the couple relocated to Southwest Florida. He was anxious to continue giving back. "I had the time to give and the resources to give and the knowledge to give," he said. The question was, where?

Rick and Joan's criteria for getting involved was a rather short list. It was important that the nonprofit they chose be well run, with a high percentage of money raised going back into the operation. They also

wanted to make sure that the organization truly helped their neighbors in need locally. They found that Harry Chapin Food Bank has a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, the nation's leading nonprofit watchdog organization, and that 96 cents of every dollar donated goes toward food bank programs.

So they began volunteering in different ways, sorting produce, packing nonperishable food items for senior programs, and distributing food at Fulfill Mobile Pantries. Rick could be seen working the crowd at the WINK Feeds Families Hunger Walk dressed in a very colorful outfit and hat, selling raffle tickets to raise more money for the food bank. Then the couple began donating money as well as time.

Rick and Joan provide monetary investments at several different levels - individually, as a couple, and through the Laboda Family Foundation. They are a sponsor of the WINK Feeds Families Hunger Walk. They are especially interested in funding programs that help children. Most recently their family foundation provided the funding for an in-school pantry at Ray V. Pottorf Elementary School in Fort Myers. The school has over 700 students, and the pantry will provide food assistance to the students and their families who struggle with hunger.



 Rick Laboda volunteers at a Fulfill Mobile Pantry.

"Children have no choice in the equation," Rick said. "It's not their fault they're hungry in any way. Helping these innocent victims is incredibly important, especially in an education environment," he said. "Hungry bellies don't learn as well as full bellies."

Joan shares that as a mom and grandmother she can't imagine how painful it would be to know that she couldn't provide the necessary food for her children. It is part of what drives her to be engaged with Harry Chapin Food Bank.



 Rick Laboda volunteers at Letter Carriers' Food Drive.

Harry's Photo Album



A group of volunteers from Fiddlesticks Country Club sorted and packed 2,862 pounds of carrots in Fort Myers.



Cornerstone United Methodist Church volunteers sorted and packed 1,500 pounds of potatoes at our Collier County Center in Naples.



A group of 25 volunteers from the Harvard Club of Lee County helped pack 690 senior food boxes at our Fort Myers Distribution Center.



We distributed 3,416 pounds of food at a Fulfill Mobile Pantry at Hector Cafferata Elementary, in Cape Coral.



A group from WellCare Health Plans packed 198 food kits for seniors in need in Fort Myers.



The Marco Island Men's Cooking Club, aka the Gourmet Stud Muffins, announced that the club raised a total of \$28,458 for the food bank.



A group of enthusiastic employees from Hampton Inn and Suites volunteered in Fort Myers. They sorted and packed frozen meat, fresh bread and yellow squash.



We received a \$2,500 Senior Initiatives Grant from the Cape Coral Community Foundation for our Care and Share: Senior Feeding Program. L-R: Food bank staff Lissette Ortiz and Annie Noel.



Good Shepherd United Methodist Women in North Fort Myers raised \$1,350 for the food bank during the annual "Souper Bowl of Caring" on Super Bowl weekend, a national event to help those who struggle with hunger.

An Appetite for Giving Back

The Kerry family got their first taste of volunteering for Harry Chapin Food Bank during the recent Feeding Southwest Florida food drive, and now they have an appetite for more.



 The Kerry Family

The massive food drive was held Feb. 8 at 62 Publix Super Market stores in Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties. The Kerrys, including Alefa, Rick and their two children, Dennis, 13, and Delayna, 11, were stationed at the Colonial Crossings Publix in Fort Myers. They volunteered about eight hours, including setting up the donation site and breaking down afterwards.

As first-time volunteers, they got an education on what it's like to work hard interacting with the community on behalf of the food bank and promoting the food bank's mission. As a side benefit, the children were able to log needed community service hours for school. They both go to Three Oaks Middle School in San Carlos Park.

Alefa, who works as an insurance agent, said she heard about Harry Chapin Food Bank through donating to the United Way. "I enjoyed it a lot," she said of volunteering. It was a good feeling to see that many people were willing to give, she said.

Rick, who is a computer developer, stayed the entire time volunteering despite having surgery for metastatic liver cancer just one month before. But his whole family was going to volunteer, and he wanted to be with them. "I wasn't as helpful as I probably could be," he said. "I recovered enough to walk around and ask people for donations."

Dennis, an outgoing eighth-grader who sounds like he could also be a budding politician, was enthusiastic about his experience. "I liked pretty much everything about it," he said. Dennis is in the National Junior Honor Society, involved in Boy Scouts, and participates in a nonprofit college-readiness program designed to help students develop, critical thinking, teamwork and other skills.

Dennis said he stood near an ATM machine while volunteering. If someone told him they couldn't participate because they didn't have any money, he would point out the ATM and encourage them to "buy food inside and give it to help your neighbors in need."

Delayna, a sixth-grader who likes playing on a beach volleyball team with her mom, was a bit more reserved. "I enjoyed talking to people," she said shyly.

The parents said they plan to have the family volunteer again. "It was a good experience," Rick said. "I recommend it to anybody who has kids their age."



 The Kerry Family at Feeding Southwest Florida



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA
3760 Fowler Street • Fort Myers, Florida 33901

239.334.7007 | harrychapinfoodbank.org

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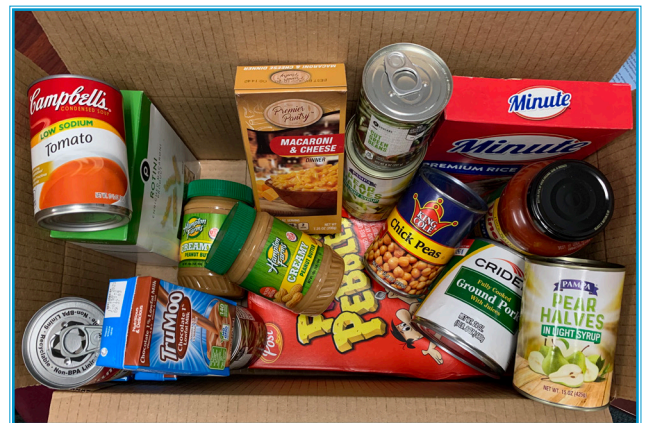
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Responding to COVID-19

Harry Chapin Food Bank is prepared to do whatever is needed to help ensure that no one will go hungry, especially during this unprecedented crisis. The core of our plan is to utilize a drive-thru distribution model, distributing prepackaged kits. Each kit will include shelf stable-food and will if possible, be supplemented with fresh products. We have identified distribution points throughout our five-county footprint and continue to seek additional sites that suit this model of food distribution. Each kit is roughly 20 pounds of food which would provide food for 5 days for a family of 4. The cost is \$30 per kit.

- **Your gift of \$30 pays for one kit**
- **Your gift of \$90 pays for three kits**
- **Your gift of \$150 pays for five kits**

Our ability to provide these kits will lie squarely on our ability to raise the necessary funds.



Now more than ever, our mission needs the help of many to ensure that no one has to go hungry. Can we count on you? Together we can continue to serve those who are hungry in our community. Use the enclosed envelope or you can make a gift online at harrychapinfoodbank.org. Current information can always be found on our website.