

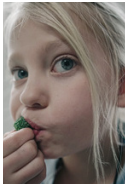
FALL 2023

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

Nourishing **MATTERS**



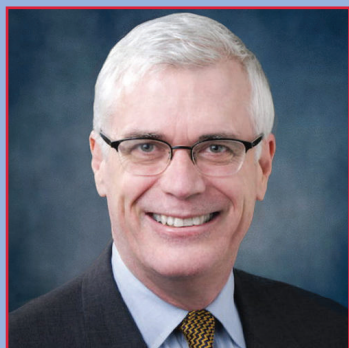
**Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**



40 YEARS OF NOURISHING OUR COMMUNITY

Serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee Counties

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO



Hurricane Ian One Year Later

Gratitude, responsibility, optimism: those words describe our work.

Every day, neighbors we serve tell us how grateful they are for our work and the impact it has on their lives. I am grateful for your support that makes that work possible. I am grateful that our community has allowed the food bank to celebrate its 40th anniversary this year. Altogether, your support has enabled us to distribute over 300 million meals since we began!

I also feel a sense of responsibility. The food bank leads the largest hunger relief network in Southwest Florida. Every month, we feed more than 250,000 people. That is a tremendous responsibility. We saw this after Hurricane Ian. Our food distributions more than tripled after Ian, exceeding 1.4 million pounds per week. We feel responsible for our impact at that time.

We are also optimistic about the future. This is a wonderful and generous community. We are making plans to support the growing needs of our growing community. With your help, we know we can do it.

Thank you for helping.

Richard LeBer
President and CEO

CDO Corner

Dear Friends,

I can hardly believe that it has been over six months since I joined the renowned team of Harry Chapin Food Bank as Chief Development Officer. It's even harder still to fathom all of the amazing things our development team has been able to accomplish during that time because of the unwavering support of YOU, our generous donors!



Just a few of the highlights:

- The launching of our dedicated monthly giving program, "Chapin's Champions"
- Rolling out our one of a kind transformative "Fresh Force" Mobile Grocery Experience
- Introducing our monthly "Donor of the Month" campaign to spotlight our corporate partners
- Beginning our Voluntourism initiative to provide visitors and conventioners a vehicle for both pleasure and purpose

And for Hunger Action Month,

- Our first-ever Hunger Action Month Match which doubled EVERY donation during September (up to \$25,000) courtesy of our friends at Suncoast Credit Union
- The Strike Out Hunger Peanut Butter and Jelly Food Drive-the first of our "40 drives in 40 years" celebration
- The inaugural "Sort-A-Thon" commemorated Hunger Action Day through a continuous 24-hour volunteer packing and sorting event that illustrated the fact that hunger never sleeps!

To be certain, hunger across Southwest Florida is big. I have seen from my very first days and am heartwarmingly reminded every day, the hearts and commitment of our sustainers like you are even bigger.

Because of you, our neighbors will be able to eat today!

Thank you for all you do!

Stuart I. Haniff, MHA
Chief Development Officer



Hunger Never Sleeps 24-Hour Sort-A-Thon

To commemorate Hunger Action Month, Harry Chapin Food Bank launched its inaugural 24-hour Sort-a-Thon Sept. 15 through Sept. 16, the first of its kind event: reminding us that hunger never sleeps. Volunteers on the front lines were sorting and organizing food donations destined for various Harry Chapin Food Bank programs and partner agencies. Volunteers doubled our expected goal, and packed over 2,000 food kits!



“Fresh Force” A Mobile Grocery Experience

Introducing “Fresh Force” by Harry Chapin Food Bank: a free mobile grocery store in our 5-county footprint. This innovative trailer offers fresh, nutritious food for seniors and those with food access challenges. The “Fresh Force” Mobile Grocery Experience is a handicapped-accessible grocery store featuring diverse fresh produce, meat, dairy, and shelf products.

It's a solution to food deserts, transportation barriers, and a lack of access to fresh food. Neighbors select items based on dietary needs and preferences. This initiative includes donated items, farmers' market-style goods, and education, empowering communities with healthy choices.

Celebrating 40 Years

This year marks a monumental milestone—the 40th anniversary of Harry Chapin Food Bank. Since its humble beginnings as the Lee County Food Cooperative in 1983, the organization has seen exponential growth and tackled countless challenges.

Over the years, we've continually expanded our programs to support a growing network of agencies, school pantries, senior programs, and the Fulfill Mobile Pantries.

Currently, about 1 in 6 children in our five-county footprint face hunger each year—a statistic that drives our mission. We're not just filling plates; we're filling hearts and fueling hope.

2022 was not without its hurdles. Just as we weathered Hurricane Irma in 2017, we faced yet another formidable challenge last year—Hurricane Ian. The storm tested the resilience of our community, but once again, we demonstrated the power of collective action.

As we look forward to fiscal year 2024, our determination remains steadfast. Armed with an extensive network of food donors and partner agencies, we are poised to feed more mouths and change more lives than ever before.

Voluntourism

Harry Chapin Food Bank has launched a brand-new and innovative initiative, “Voluntourism,” collaborating with local hotels and convention centers. Stuart Haniff, Chief Development Officer at Harry Chapin Food Bank, recognized a unique opportunity to engage the abundance of travelers and conference attendees in meaningful and direct community service. “People aren't just visiting for the beaches; they're also interested in giving back to the places they're coming to,” said Haniff.

The program allows volunteers to spend a few hours sorting food, packing meals, or participating in outreach activities. Local hotel and resorts including the JW Marriott on Marco Island and the Luminary Hotel in Fort Myers have already eagerly incorporated voluntourism into their package options.

“Last month, instead of an afternoon of golf, MCE Automation chose to volunteer with HCFB during their conference,” Haniff noted.

The initiative not only boosts the food bank's capacity to serve the local community, but also instills a sense of social responsibility in tourists. By blending tourism and charitable work, Harry Chapin Food Bank has added a program turning Southwest Florida into a destination for both pleasure and purpose.



Renamed Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida, a tribute to the late singer who passionately fought hunger.

1994



Expanded operations with new Collier County facility in Naples.

2017



Hurricane Ian Distributed 1.4 million pounds each week for an extended period of time as families dealt with the aftermath.

2022

1983

Opened as Lee County Food Cooperative to aid in the distribution of government surplus cheese and other dairy products.



2009

Moved to its present 55,000-square-foot warehouse and offices on Fowler Street.



2020

COVID-19 Pandemic. Distributed one million pounds of food per week.



2023

Launching our Fresh Force mobile grocery experience.

Working Together to Help Our Neighbors Because **Nourishing Matters**

Fulfilling a Neighbor's Need When it Matters Most



When Margarita Valdez arrived at the Fulfill Mobile Pantry in Lehigh Acres, she carried with her not just the weight of her empty grocery bags but also the hopes of her family for a decent meal. In a community where the struggle for food security has escalated over

the years, Margarita and countless others found solace and sustenance at our mobile food distribution points.

"Go from day to day, and thank God we make it. We wake up. We have a little bit of food on the table," Valdez expressed, encapsulating the reality for many families navigating the hurdles of food insecurity.



Veggie Quiche Muffins

Ingredients:

¾ cup shredded cheddar cheese	4 eggs, beaten
1 cup chopped onion	1 cup all-purpose baking mix or Bisquick
1 cup chopped broccoli	1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
1 cup diced tomato	½ teaspoon salt and pepper
2 cups nonfat or 1% milk	

Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Lightly grease 12 muffin cups/muffin tin.
2. Sprinkle the cheese, onion, broccoli and tomato into the muffin cups.
3. Place remaining ingredients in a bowl and mix until smooth. Pour mixture over ingredients in the muffin cups.
4. Bake until golden brown or until a knife inserted into the center comes out clean, 35 to 40 minutes.
5. Cool 5 minutes.

Many Thanks to our Generous Partners

DONOR OF THE MONTH: PUBLIX SUPER MARKETS CHARITIES



Publix Plaque Presentation at the Fort Myers Warehouse

SIMPLY HEALTHCARE— Simply Generous



Simply Healthcare Presenting HCFCB with a \$20,000 Gift

CHAPIN'S CHAMPIONS OUR SUPPORTERS

Choosing to make a sustaining gift consistently helps the fight to end hunger. Your commitment to donate provides food EVERY MONTH, making a difference all year long.

Become one of Chapin's Champions today! Make a monthly sustaining gift that will help us in our fight to end hunger!



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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