

Nourishing MATTERS



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

FALL 2025

239-334-7007 | HARRYCHAPINFOODBANK.ORG



A Full-Circle Moment Beckie's Story

At a recent mobile pantry at Sacred Heart Church, something extraordinary happened — something that reminded us why our mission goes far beyond distributing food.

As volunteers welcomed neighbors, one woman paused. Rebecca “Beckie” Tokarski had just arrived when she spotted something familiar on the side of our food bank truck. It was a photo taken 13 years ago of her foster son, just three years old, joyfully helping carry bags of food to their car.

Beckie hadn't planned to stop by that day. She was simply running errands when she noticed the image of her son.

Years ago, she discovered Harry Chapin Food Bank through one of our agency partners. **In that season of uncertainty, the mobile pantry gave her more than just food — it gave her dignity and hope.**

Later, Beckie shared her story at a volunteer celebration hosted by Wintergarden Presbyterian Church, reminding everyone that behind every box, every volunteer hour, and every donation is a story like hers.

The people we serve are not just names or numbers. They are neighbors. Community members. Storytellers. Sometimes, they return — like Beckie — to show us just how far we've come together.

As she stood beside that same truck, her hands folded into the shape of a heart, we saw the same joy and resilience we saw in her son's smile all those years ago.

At Harry Chapin Food Bank, we are honored to walk alongside neighbors like Beckie — then, now, and always.

Together, we are building stories of hope — one meal at a time.



A Season of Giving, A Community of Hope

The Changemakers Behind Every Meal

Sometimes, it begins before the sun rises. Someone slips on a Harry Chapin Food Bank T-shirt, laces their shoes, and steps into the day. Elsewhere in Southwest Florida, a neighbor pours their coffee — knowing their support is fueling something bigger.

It's a community effort, made possible by the dedication of our donors, volunteers, and advocates — people like you, showing up in countless ways to ensure no one goes hungry.

Some show up in person. Others give generously. Many do both.

By the time our trucks roll out, this united effort is already in motion. Shelves are stocked. Boxes are packed. Fresh produce is inspected — all because of you.

In our distribution centers, hands move swiftly — sorting bread, packing meals, ensuring quality. On the road, your generosity rides with us to mobile pantries, school programs, and senior sites.

There, your support becomes the face of hope: a friendly greeting, a fresh box of food, a reminder that no one is forgotten.

Together, you reach:

- ♥ A grandmother raising her grandkids, grateful for groceries that will last the week.
- ♥ A father working two jobs, finally able to sit down to a full meal with his family.
- ♥ A child who drifts off to sleep with a full belly — and a little more hope.

This is more than volunteering.
This is more than giving.

This is a movement powered by you.

From all of us at Harry Chapin Food Bank: Thank you for being the hands, the heart, and the hope that keep our mission alive.



Volunteer Spotlight



Lee Health Foundation: Packing Meals, Fueling Hope

We were proud to welcome the Lee Health Foundation team to our Fort Myers Distribution Center, where their commitment to community was on full display. With incredible teamwork and energy, they packed 450 food kits, helping us provide 7,500 meals to our neighbors across Southwest Florida.

As the philanthropic arm of Lee Health, the Foundation plays a vital role in improving lives throughout our region. Their time with us was a powerful reminder that caring for community health includes making sure families have consistent access to nutritious food.

Whether supporting patients or volunteering on the front lines of hunger relief, the Lee Health Foundation team continues to show up in meaningful ways. We're grateful for their partnership and their shared belief that no one should have to go hungry.



Charles Schwab Team

A huge thank-you to the incredible volunteers from Charles Schwab who showed up in both Fort Myers and Naples with energy, creativity, and generosity!

- ♥ Packed thousands of pounds of fresh, healthy produce
- ♥ Hosted a food drive to support our neighbors
- ♥ Designed a fun putt-putt golf course using donated food
- ♥ Made a generous financial gift to help us continue feeding families



Your commitment makes a real difference for Southwest Florida — and we're so grateful for your partnership!



Driving Hope: A Gift from Suncoast Credit Union

We're thrilled to share some exciting news: **Suncoast Credit Union** has generously donated a brand-new refrigerated delivery truck to Harry Chapin Food Bank!

Equipped with a full-length refrigerated trailer and hydraulic lift, this truck allows us to safely transport fresh produce, frozen food, and boxed goods, delivering over 20 pallets in a single trip!

With this new truck, we're reaching more communities across **Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee**

counties, helping more families, more often, with the nutritious food they need.

Thank you, Suncoast Credit Union, for fueling our mission and feeding hope across Southwest Florida.



NAPLES CHILDREN FOUNDATION



Children can't reach their full potential on an empty stomach. With NCF's support, we're delivering nutritious meals through school pantries, mobile distributions, and family food kits — getting help where it's needed most.

Every gift through NCF multiplies this impact, fueling a countywide network of solutions that ensure vulnerable children have the nourishment they need to grow, learn, and thrive.

A landmark announcement that will shape the future of hunger relief is coming soon!



Join the Movement

Whether you give, volunteer, or advocate — your support makes it possible for us to serve over a quarter of a million people each month.

Let's keep showing up — together.

Volunteer | Donate | Get Involved
(239) 334-7007 | harrychapinfoodbank.org

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3760 Fowler St.
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Collier County Center
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