



### LOOKING AHEAD...

#### Set Your Calendar For Jan. 21, 2017!

**WINK News Feeds Families Hunger Walk** is one of the highlights of the year for Southwest Florida, presenting sponsors Garden Street Companies and the Lee County Sheriff's Office, and the Harry Chapin Food Bank. Set your calendar for Jan. 21, 2017, and become a sponsor, form a team or just show up at Miramar Outlets to pledge your support! We raised \$305,000 in 2016, so we need you...and you...and you! Visit [harrychapinfoodbank.org](http://harrychapinfoodbank.org) and follow the link to the Hunger Walk.



Supporters swarm the start of the 2016 WINK News Hunger Walk.

#### Become a 'Friend Of Empty Bowls'

A great way to support the Harry Chapin Food Bank is to become a "Friend of Empty Bowls." Just a \$50 donation includes admission, soup bowl and commemorative bowl for **Empty Bowls Naples**, which takes place Jan. 28, 2017, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Cambier Park. We aim to pass last year's \$97,000, and with your help, we will! [emptybowlsnaples.org](http://emptybowlsnaples.org)

## A Day in the Life of a Food Bank

The Harry Chapin Food Bank's day starts well before sun-up, and ends...well, hunger never ends for those in need. That's why there's a sense of urgency every day for the staff and volunteers. Join us as we spend a recent Friday in the life of the Food Bank's Fort Myers warehouse.

**5:45 a.m.** The sky is black as Barry Draper, warehouse logistics manager, unlocks doors and turns on lights.

**6:30 a.m.** Dawn appears just as the first wave of drivers takes seven refrigerated trucks for retail food pick-ups at Publix, Walmart, Sam's Club, Costco, Trader Joe's, Winn-Dixie and others. They will return midday with 45,000 pounds of food — about 30 percent meat, 35 percent shelf-stable dry goods, 25 percent produce and 10 percent dairy. Within hours, a third of the poundage turns right around on trucks to agencies, while the rest will move out on Monday.

**6:48 a.m.** Driver Mike Davis (photo left) has already picked up 2,100 pounds of bread from Flowers Bakery for volunteers to package later for agency delivery. Now, he's loading up 15,000 pounds of potatoes, watermelon and bread to deliver to Grace Place in Naples.



**7:18 a.m.** The previous day, Frey Farms

delivered those 42,000 pounds of potatoes and watermelon in oddball sizes or funny shapes, but still ripe for good eating. Warehouse associate David Didder (right), covering for the vacationing freezer attendant, moves boxes from the cool room (56 to 58 degrees) to loading...



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## Single Dad Tries to Make Ends Meet

*From a mobile pantry sponsored by NCEF — Naples Children & Education Foundation, founders of the Naples Winter Wine Festival:*

"Every bit counts," said Mike, 35, of the food he picked up for his two sons, Gianni, 8, and Anthony, 6. "I'm between jobs right now and trying to get everything back on pace," explained the divorced single father, who used to

work for the Florida Department of Corrections. "It's a struggle, but you've got to think positive."

The food he receives helps a lot.

"You're worried enough, as it is, to penny-pinch and try to make ends meet."

He shared good news a few weeks later after getting hired by a home pest control company. The Harry Chapin Food Bank was there when we were needed!



Mike and sons at a mobile pantry



# Harry Chapin Food Bank OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

**FORT MYERS:**  
3760 Fowler St.  
Fort Myers, Florida 33901

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

[harrychapinfoodbank.org](http://harrychapinfoodbank.org)

## Board of Directors

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## Hard at Work to End Hunger

September was the height of the hurricane season as well as Hunger Action Month, and the Food Bank was hard at work.

We were ready for hurricane season — handing out insect repellent to help fight the spread of the Zika virus, stocking up on relief supplies, checking the generators.

Hunger Action Month is always a strong reminder to everyone that hunger is widespread in our community. On Sept. 8, Hunger Action Day, our Food Bank team was featured in the news wearing orange to draw attention to the issue. Meanwhile, our website directed people to 30 ways they could participate in 30 days.

We are working with our network of 150 agencies to fulfill our responsibilities as the largest hunger relief organization in Southwest Florida, rescuing more than 20 million pounds of food that would otherwise go to waste. Diane, a nurse with three teenage boys and a 6-year-old to feed, was at a mobile pantry recently, straight from work in her uniform. “The pantry gets empty pretty fast,” she said. “It’s a big help.” Thank you for working with us to end hunger in Southwest Florida!



Richard LeBer, Harry Chapin Food Bank President and CEO

## A Warm Welcome...and Congratulations



**Barry Draper**, warehouse logistics manager, after 32 years with General Motors and five-and-a-half years with the Florida Association of Food Banks (now Feeding Florida).

**Meg Madzar** moves from Capital Campaign coordinator into her new position as events and food drive coordinator. She has been with the Food Bank for four years.



## GRANTS AND DONATIONS

**AvAirPros: \$7,500**

**BB&T: \$2,315.61**

**Busey Bank: \$2,500**

**Caliber Collision Centers: \$1,500**

**Campbell Soup Company: \$3,812.22**

**CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation: \$1,511.34**

**Darden Foundation: \$2,368.42**

**Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation: \$5,000**

**Garden Street Iron & Metal, Inc.: \$15,000**

**Gartner Inc.: \$1,901**

**General Mills: \$8,738.82**

**Lipman Family Farms: \$2,500**

**Maddox Construction: \$2,500**

**Marriott International — Marco Island Marriott Resort and Spa: \$1,770.50**

**Robert Rauschenberg Foundation: \$30,000**

**Sanibel Community Church: \$1,150**

**Walmart Foundation: \$51,703.47**

## 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](http://freshfromflorida.com).

# Food Bank Begins Distribution Of Mosquito Repellent to Combat Zika

More than 500,000 units of mosquito repellent to combat the Zika virus and other mosquito-borne diseases have made their way to Floridians.

This free program was provided through the **Florida Department of Agriculture and Feeding Florida** (a statewide network of Feeding America food banks). Starting in mid-September, the Harry Chapin Food Bank set out to distribute the repellent over five weeks to 79 partner agencies, which were passing their 19,548 units (1,629 cases) of repellent on to the public. The Food Bank also scheduled four mass distributions in Immokalee, Naples, Fort Myers and Port Charlotte for the remaining 8,000 units.

“We all must do our part to prevent the spread of Zika virus – not only to protect ourselves, but to ensure the pregnant women in our communities are protected as they and their unborn babies are most at risk,” said Celeste Philip, MD, MPH, surgeon general and secretary of the Florida Department of Health. “Ensuring that all

of Florida’s residents and visitors are educated and armed with the proper resources is one of our key goals in preventing this virus in our state.”

## Hunger Action Month Mobilizes Our Community

The September calendar at the Harry Chapin Food Bank brimmed with activities to mobilize people in our community during **Hunger Action Month**.

Here in Southwest Florida, nearly 164,000 people (including 54,870 children) are food insecure. They often don’t know where their next meal is coming from.

The Food Bank’s call to action, symbolized by an empty plate and the color orange, asked people to consider how it must feel to live with an empty stomach, which puts a healthy life and a promising future at risk.

The hard work to help those in need, however, continues long after the month is over. So stay involved!

## Recognized For Transparency

The Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida has earned the Platinum GuideStar Nonprofit Profile Seal of

Transparency, the highest level of recognition by GuideStar, the world’s largest source of

nonprofit information. To achieve the top level, the Food Bank expanded its nonprofit profile on GuideStar with in-depth financial information and qualitative information about goals, strategies, capabilities, results and progress toward its mission. These meaningful data help donors and funders evaluate the Food Bank.



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

## Four Join the Food Bank Board of Directors

The Harry Chapin Food Bank is pleased to welcome four new board members:

**John D. Clinger** is senior vice president of Clinger, Sizemore & Associates, focusing on wealth and portfolio management. His board service includes the Edison Festival of Light and the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades & Okeechobee counties.



President of Maddox Construction Company, third-generation builder **Jeffrey Maddox** followed his father and grandfather. His company specializes in interior and exterior work for retail, office, restaurant, education, hospitality, clubhouse and industrial industries.



**Gary Gardner** is a management consultant and founding partner of The Leadership Culture. Over 30 years, he has helped organizations develop leadership teams, company culture and customer experience. He also has served on several nonprofit boards.



**Lois Thome** has earned awards and accolades for her work as an anchor at WINK News for 24 years. She also is well-known for community service and advocacy — from 15 years with the Southwest Florida Reading Festival to her involvement in the WINK News Feeds Families Hunger Walk.



## CenturyLink Adds Matching Funds

The 2016 **CenturyLink** Backpack Buddies Food Drive, held from June 6 to 17, raised close to \$700,000 for food banks across the United States. Matching funds from the CenturyLink Clarke M. Williams Foundation were allocated to participating nonprofits based on donations directed to them online. The Harry Chapin Food Bank received \$2,173.32!

## National Campaign Scores for Walmart

**Walmart’s** 2016 “Fight Hunger. Spark Change” campaign scored big for the Harry Chapin Food Bank. The retailer partnered with five suppliers — General Mills, Kellogg Company, Campbell Soup Company, PepsiCo and The Kraft Heinz Company. They donated the equivalent of one meal for each participating product sold, earmarking the funds raised locally for the Food Bank.

# Publix Supports Mobile Pantries, Food Drives With \$100,000 Donation

The Harry Chapin Food Bank is thrilled to be part of a \$5 million donation to the **Feeding America** food bank network from **Publix Super Markets Charities**. That donation is more than three times the amount Publix had previously given in any year.

During the announcement at Publix's headquarters in Lakeland, Fla., the Food Bank received \$100,000 to support mobile pantries next summer and buy a refrigerat-

ed van for food drives and other programs.

"Publix has been a great partner to the Harry Chapin Food Bank for many years, providing food, volunteering and supporting us with grants for equipment and operations," said Richard LeBer, Harry Chapin Food Bank's president and CEO.

"Our Foundation is dedicated to giving the gift of nourishment and hope to our communities," said Carol Jenkins Barnett, president, Publix Super Markets Charities.

## Celebrating Joyce Jacobs

Joyce Jacobs, associate director of the Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida, has announced that she will retire on June 30, 2017, after almost 24 years of service. That gives us all plenty of time to wish her well!



Richard LeBer, center, president and CEO of the Harry Chapin Food Bank, holds the \$100,000 check, flanked by officials from Publix and Publix Super Markets Charities.

# Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation Grant Aims to Improve Volunteer Spaces

It doesn't look like much now, but there soon will be a new meat-packing area for volunteers to use daily at the Food Bank's Fort Myers warehouse, along with an expanded food drive and donated food sorting room.

Thanks to a \$150,000 Capital Campaign grant to improve volunteer spaces from the **Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation**, the 800-square-foot meat-packing area was carved out of an open section of the warehouse. Enclosed with walls, windows and double doors, and air-conditioned, the space will be safe, clean and comfortable for volunteers as they inspect, repack and sanitize food.

"This will make a huge difference for everyone," said Eric Hitzeman, the Food Bank's director of

operations.

The grant also helps the Food Bank expand a volunteer sort room into a 640-square-foot space. New walls and windows for better lighting, along with rubber swinging doors and a new air-conditioning system are in the works. It will provide additional space for the Food Bank's food-bagging production for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), which aims to improve the health of low-income seniors by supplementing their diets with nutritious U.S. Department of Agriculture foods.

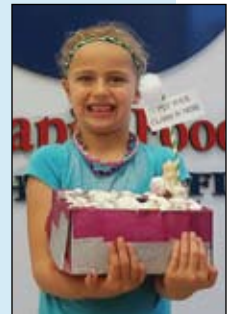


New flooring, water heater and sink are in, walls are going up, and air conditioning will soon be in place for expanded meat-packing space, said Eric Hitzeman, Food Bank director of operations.

## 3 Girls Who Inspire!

Plenty of young people are eager to make a difference in our world, and these three young girls should inspire us all.

The youngest is 5-year-old **Joy Youngblood** (in photo) of Lee County, who made a return visit to the Food Bank (after breaking her piggy bank last year to donate \$8). This time, she raised money at her "Ariel" party (that's The Little Mermaid). She decorated a box with shiny paper and shells. A sign on the box read, "Put your clams in here." Those "clams" added up to \$42 for the Food Bank!



**Christianna Prout**, 9, of Naples, decided she'd rather have guests bring food to donate instead of gifts to her birthday party. "I want to help the less fortunate," she said. And so she did, with 150 pounds of food for the Food Bank!

The same thought came to 15-year-old **Sarah Cabrera** of Lee County when she asked a dozen friends and family to bring five cans to her birthday party. After the celebration, she delivered 100 pounds of food to the Food Bank. "It touches your heart when young people react this way to those in need," said Richard LeBer, president and CEO of the Food Bank.

## Aviation Day 2016 Asks For Food Donations

Wings up for **Aviation Day 2016!** This annual community event takes place at Page Field on Saturday, Oct. 29, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with free admission and parking. Not only will it feature historical aircraft, demonstrations and children's activities, participants are asked to bring a non-perishable food donation to benefit the Food Bank.

# A Day in the Life of a Food Bank... *Continued from page 1*

docks throughout the day.

**9:03 a.m.** Friday morning volunteers work as a well-oiled team (below right), repackaging loaves of bread for delivery to agencies. The boxes sport bright yellow Food Bank stickers.

**9:22 a.m.** Volunteers Linda Mitchell and Ray Seguin

(below) are two hours into their Friday morning shift, stocking the Food Bank's in-house pantry shelves with foods for agency pantry volunteers and individuals in need — coffee and tea, juices, snacks, crackers, rice, vegetable cans, soups, oatmeal and so much more.

**9:36 a.m.** Warehouse associates Robert Jones and Mike Rice (below right) confer in the cool room on how to repackage 300 50-pound bags of potatoes for sorting to pantries.

**10:08 a.m.** Jobeth St. John and Debby Prentice (below) shop in the in-house pantry for just 18 cents a pound (and free produce and bread) for St. Vincent de Paul at Palm Beach Boulevard food pantry and the Children's Advocacy Center.

Rich Dobuski and Don Ruane wait outside to load up.

**10:31 a.m.** Five scheduled deliveries to partner agen-

cies begin. St. Joseph the Worker, Point of Light

Fellowship and Salvation Army LaBelle will get three to four pallets at each stop. An entire truckload is going to Ebenezer Port Charlotte. Delivery driver

Ramon Darrida (above right) shuts his truck.

**11:05 a.m.** Naples-based Dave Wallace (right in photo at left), first vice president, CRE Consultants, tours the warehouse with Food Bank President and CEO Richard LeBer.

**12:03 p.m.** Volunteers serving on the Food Bank's Marketing Work Group (above right) meet every other month to assist staff with strategic objectives.

**1:20 p.m.** Donated fresh produce and meat from Publix are unloaded from one of the Food Bank's refrigerated trucks, weighed in at 779 pounds and moved into the refrigerated room for later distribution.

**1:27 p.m.** Every day, Mike Davis (left) cleans his truck interior to maintain



food safety. Deep cleaning inside and out and truck maintenance are done on Wednesdays.

**1:44 p.m.** Gregg Burwell (above right) makes sure to keep the warehouse floor clean after many hours of moving food in and out.

**1:50 p.m.** Delivery driver Ramon Darrida returns — with empty boxes — from a long day making multiple stops on the way to Okeechobee and back.

**2:12 p.m.** Driver Jesus Romero-Delgado brings in the last refrigerated truck with donations from 12 retail stores. Perishable food moves

into freezer, refrigerator and cool rooms, awaiting Monday distribution.

Many days at the Food Bank also include mobile pantry distributions within our five-county service area, as well as staff fanning out to community events, where they raise awareness of hunger throughout Southwest Florida.

Tomorrow will be another busy day fighting hunger...and we'll be there.

**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.**

# Fort Myers Rescue Mission Feeds All Who Are Hungry

Seven days a week, 85 men find food, shelter, counseling and care at the **Fort Myers Rescue Mission** ministry. But many more are helped throughout the year.

“We feed anyone who is hungry — men, women, families,” said Stephen Short, the mission’s food service manager and weekend cook. That can average 2,000 meals a week!

The mission began more than three decades ago, when Rev. Robert Walker started bringing homeless and hungry people into his home. Today, men in need can sign in daily for a clean place to sleep in four dormitories, warm and nutritious food to eat and encouraged to find a job that gets them back on their feet.

Twice a week, Harry Chapin Food Bank trucks deliver about 85 percent of the food that the Fort Myers Rescue Mission prepares. That might include eggs, bacon, oatmeal and milk for breakfast; baked ziti with Italian sausage or sandwiches for lunch; and dinner of fried chicken, mashed potatoes and fresh vegetables. Residents helped by the mission are

assigned such chores as cleaning pots and pans, the dining hall or tables. The “chore list” is updated as people come and go.

“Many come up and thank us so much,” said Short. “They’re so grateful to have a place to stay and get a really good meal. We have many success stories of men who have moved onto the rest of their lives.”

The Food Bank has a special role in this, thanks to 502,237 pounds it delivered in the last fiscal year. “It’s been a wonderful relationship for many years. We love the people there, and they’re part of us, too,” Short said. Every week, he goes online to the Food Bank’s website to order meat, fresh produce and canned goods. Without fail, every Monday and Thursday at 2 p.m., the trucks rumble up to the Fort Myers Rescue Mission. And no one goes hungry.

## Legacy Giving Shows Your Commitment

A planned gift to the Harry Chapin Food Bank is a very special way to express your commitment to fighting hunger in Southwest Florida. This can be a gift of money, stock or property. It will live on as your legacy, as it also helps guarantee the Food Bank’s long-term future.

To learn more about legacy giving, contact **Kelli King** at (239) 334-7007 x202 or [kellinging@harrychapinfoodbank.org](mailto:kellinging@harrychapinfoodbank.org).



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**Holiday Planning**  
One of the favorite  
times of the year is  
also the hardest for  
our friends in need!  
Help us help them!  
Call 334-7007

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