



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

VOLUNTEER VIBES

Serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties

May 2019

Thank You for Your Dedication To Our Mission of Fighting Hunger!

The Harry Chapin Food Bank's annual Recognition Dinner on March 20 was the perfect setting for President and CEO Richard LeBer (below left) and staff to applaud more than 200 volunteers (below right). They enjoyed a buffet dinner, bluegrass band, door prizes, T-shirts and awards for their many hours of service.



**SAVE
THE
DATE!**

**27th Annual National
Association of Letter
Carriers Stamp Out
Hunger Food Drive**

Saturday, May 11

This is the nation's largest single-day food drive, when letter carriers collect non-perishable food that has been left at mail-boxes. Last year, 273,649 pounds of food were collected here in Southwest Florida!

As many as 300 volunteers from our community are needed to set up, help unload the food and do preliminary sorting at six post offices in Lee County. Please make a commitment to join us.

**Call (239) 334-7007:
Lori Harrington at ext. 141
or Todd Lewis at ext. 204.**

One Volunteer Continues a Legacy...

You could say that Katharine (Kay) Parkinson's mother "handed down" volunteering at the Food Bank.

Every time Parkinson visited, her mother, then in her 90s, brought her to the Food Bank. When Parkinson finally moved here permanently in 2004, the

first thing her mother asked her was "Are you going to volunteer at the Food Bank?"

"I love to help," Parkinson said. "I donate a couple of times a year, and I give my hours every week."



TRACKING OUR VOLUNTEERS

(July 1, 2018, to March 31, 2019)

Volunteers: 3,348

Lee County hours: 17,797

**Collier County hours:
3,850**

Mobile pantry hours: 5,534

Total hours: 32,710

**Value of volunteer hours:
\$831,815.30 per
independent sector**

...As Another Starts One Early in Life

Sarah Cabrera has been recognizing the problem of hunger in Southwest Florida since holding a food drive for her 11th birthday. Recently, she went BIG to celebrate her 18th birthday.

Calling the food drive "18 for 18," she convinced local businesses (now up to 20), along with Florida Southwestern State College and the Cape Coral Police Department, to

partner with her on behalf of the Harry

Chapin Food Bank from late April to May 31.

"Many kids believe that they are too young to make a difference," she said. "But I believe the total opposite; you can make a difference no matter what age you are."

Clearly, she is wise beyond her years! Visit her page at [facebook.com/Sarahsfooddrive](https://www.facebook.com/Sarahsfooddrive).



Your financial support is always appreciated!

Bank of America 'Rolls Up Sleeves' to Fight Hunger

By now, the employees of **Bank of America** are "regulars" at the Harry Chapin Food Bank's Fort Myers and Naples warehouses, as well as at mobile pantry distributions throughout the five Southwest Florida counties.



The Food Bank's Superstar Wall honors the bank's employees who have volunteered, donated or conducted their own food drive. That includes Bank

of America's 7th Annual **Give a Meal** fundraiser, which brought in \$91,521 for the Food Bank! And in April, Bank of America volunteers packed lots and lots of yellow squash (photo above).

"Food insecurity remains a critical issue for thousands of Southwest Florida residents," said Carina Guillard, market manager for Bank of America. "Rolling up our sleeves and work-

ing alongside the Harry Chapin Food Bank has been a privilege and is one of the many ways Bank of America is working with partners to help eradicate hunger in our community."

We are grateful for such generous support!

When You Work in Our Warehouses...

Remember these requirements:

- Dress according to temperature outside and in clothing you can get dirty.
- Make sure your attire is clean and modest (no tank tops or bare midriffs).
- Wear closed-toe shoes (no sandals or flip-flops).
- No smoking, eating or beverages allowed; snacks are available.
- No digital devices are to be used.
- Lock valuables in your vehicle.

THANK YOU!

'Why I Volunteer At the Food Bank...'

Susan Soucy: "My husband and I moved to Florida three years ago, and I wanted to become active and involved in the community. When I saw how much the Food Bank does, I started volunteering. It makes me feel good to help at food drives and to sort meat and pack produce two days a week."



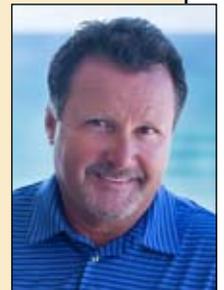
Have Special Skills? We Want YOU!

The Food Bank values every contribution our volunteers make. Sometimes, though, you come with special skills that can greatly improve operations.

Look no further than volunteer Gary Poos. The former Coca-Cola executive and organizational consultant is helping the Food Bank maximize existing resources with partner agencies.

He took a circuitous road to the Food Bank. First, he learned about Feeding America when he helped get a shelf-stable dairy product to Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria. Feeding America connected him with Second Harvest in Orlando, where he helped with logistics. When Poos retired to Fort Myers, Second Harvest introduced him to the Harry Chapin Food Bank.

"I've personally witnessed their passion and commitment to eliminate hunger that exists around them," he said. "I thought I could make a much bigger difference by bringing my organizational building skills to expand the Food Bank network's capabilities."



What special skills can you offer?

Call Lori Harrington at (239) 334-7007, ext. 141.

Harry Chapin Food Bank OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

FORT MYERS:

3760 Fowler St.

Fort Myers, Florida 33901

NAPLES:

3940 Prospect Ave. #101

Naples, Florida 34104

Phone: (239) 334-7007

harrychapinfoodbank.org

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

Look for us on:



A member of
FEEDING AMERICA

United Way
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