



At-Risk Seniors Need Food Assistance NOW



A new Food Bank program will ensure that seniors in Lee, Charlotte and Collier counties continue to get monthly food bags.

They're hiding in plain sight. Here in Southwest Florida, 24,600 seniors are "food insecure" and may not know where their next meal is coming from. Too many are faced with impossible choices: pay for food...or medical care...or housing — and they're often too proud to tell anyone that they're suffering.

In 2015, the Harry Chapin Food Bank rolled out the Commodity Supplemental

Food Program (CSFP) for 2,200 seniors in Lee, Charlotte and Collier counties — about a million pounds of food. It was so successful that the Florida Department of Agriculture is expanding the program in other areas of the state with greater need — including Glades and Hendry counties. But the three initial counties in the program will no longer receive CSFP food for at-risk seniors.

The Food Bank is stepping into the breach, relying almost entirely on fundraising to continue to provide food kits to affected seniors in Lee, Charlotte and Collier.

This new program, called **Care & Share: Senior Feeding Campaign**, starts July 1 and will cost the Food Bank \$1.1 million annually. The food will be appropriate for senior health needs, and purchased and distributed monthly, just like CSFP.

While the state of Florida has approved \$400,000 for this program, however, the Food Bank still needs to raise \$700,000.



Seniors, themselves, paint a vivid picture of how food insecurity is a daily challenge. For Elaine (*in photo left*), life has been a struggle. The retired mother of four



**A \$500 gift can feed
a senior for an entire year!
Your donation really can
make a difference.**

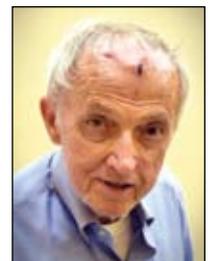
is living on widow's benefits after working as a blackjack dealer and in customer service jobs. "I do get food stamps, but they don't cover a whole lot," she explained. That's why she appreciated receiving bags of food monthly through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program. Losing that food will impact her life.

She tries to stretch her money as far as she can. "I have my mortgage and my insurances. That's about all I can pay for," she said.

Bill, 82 (*in photo right*) lives under the radar — in his 1982 diesel car.

Once he was a farmer, an owner of a small business in home flooring and carpet steam-cleaning, and a pizza deliverer. Now, "I'm just not physically able to do that work," he said. He never received veterans' benefits from his service in the Navy and Naval Reserve, but will soon get them.

As a CSFP client, that food helped him survive. What will he do when he can no longer receive food through that program? "Cope," he said.



Arthrex Steps Up Its Senior Support

Naples-based **Arthrex** has committed funds to help address the important issue of senior hunger.

"Arthrex is honored to support the Harry Chapin Food Bank's valued efforts and commitment to enriching the lives of seniors in our community," said Alyssa Norus, associate recruiter at the company.

This global medical device company that serves the field of orthopedics has been a proud supporter of the Harry Chapin Food Bank since 2010, typically directing donations to any area in desperate need of funding. It has sponsored events and contributed generously to the Food Bank's Capital Campaign.

Arthrex also plans to post to its employee bulletin board any volunteer opportunities at the Food Bank, such as mobile pantry distributions and team-building packing events.



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harrychapinfoodbank.org

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Our New Mission and Vision

Every charitable organization needs to define its Mission and Vision, which set out its purpose and its goals. We recently reviewed ours for the first time in several years. It was an interesting exercise, involving our staff and our Board and including a thorough discussion of many options and issues.

Our new Mission is **“To lead our community in the fight to end hunger.”**

We chose these words carefully. We “lead our community” because we work together with so many others, including non-profits, churches, community organizations, donors and volunteers. We believe our work will continue to be challenging, hence the word “fight.” We are challenging ourselves to “end hunger,” not just make things a bit better.

That’s an audacious goal. Do we expect to see a day when no one ever finds themselves hungry? No. Life has its challenges and always will. But we believe in our new Vision, that **“No one has to go hungry in our community.”** I think that says it all. In today’s America, none of us, regardless of our situation, should find ourselves without access to the food we need. We are working to make that a reality.

We are excited about our new Mission and Vision. We hope you are, too. Thanks for your support!



Richard LeBer, Harry Chapin Food Bank President and CEO

Collier Operations to Move to Larger Space

Harry Chapin Food Bank’s new Collier County Center, at 3940 Prospect Ave., will open in late summer. The 13,568-square-foot facility will help the Food Bank serve partner agencies with more access to food, fresh produce and meats. It also provides needed space for our new Care & Share: Senior Feeding Campaign, which replaces the loss of the Commodity Supplemental

Food Program (CSFP) in Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties.

A planned 10x30-foot refrigerated cooler holds 14 pallets of fresh food. This will allow the Food Bank to store overnight the food it receives from its daily retail rescue pick-up from 14 stores, then spread out distribution to multiple partner agencies.

The front half of the building is devoted

to administration, with a large conference room that is available to the community. “We’ll have a stronger presence, as we strive to better serve the Collier community,” said Eric Hitzeman, director of operations.



OUR MISSION... *To lead our community in the fight to end hunger.*

OUR VISION... *No one has to go hungry in our community.*

**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.

Summit: ‘Ending Hunger Together’

Just how bad is hunger in Southwest Florida? The Harry Chapin Food Bank has grown its volume of food rescue and distribution to more than 22 million pounds of food this year. Yet as much as 37 million pounds are needed to feed all who are food insecure in our five-county service area.



Food Bank partner agencies (photos right and left) attending the **8th annual Hunger Summit** shared issues and made connections to improve their delivery of food and

services to those most in need. It was all about “Ending Hunger Together.”

(More photos on page 5)



Letter Carriers’ Food Drive Surpasses Goal

The **25th annual Letter Carriers’ “Stamp Out Hunger” Food Drive** in May soared



beyond expectations. Through the generosity of our local communities, our mail carriers and hundreds of volunteers, bags of food poured in.



Of the 300,305 pounds of food collected that day, the Food Bank will be able to distribute 208,321 pounds throughout its five-county service area.

We couldn’t do this without you!

Packed Crowd Tours the Warehouse

Our latest **Food for Thought** event (below right) drew its largest crowd ever! During this early morning meet-and-greet, led by the Food Bank’s President and CEO Richard LeBer, 30 participants toured the Fort Myers warehouse and learned how we help feed the hungry.

Interested in finding out more about the Food Bank? Call (239) 334-7007 to join in a light breakfast and engage in some thoughtful conversation at a future Food for Thought event. The next one is scheduled for July 11. We guarantee it will open your eyes!



Food Bank Again Earns Top Designation

For the eighth consecutive time, Charity Navigator, the nation’s leading nonprofit watchdog organization, has awarded its top rating — four stars — to the Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest



Florida. We are proud of this exceptional designation as stewards of our donors’ money!

Volunteers Pack Bags For Senior Program

What’s the best thing about packing bags for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (photo below)? Knowing that our elders at risk of hunger will receive healthy, age-appropriate food. Two shifts of six volunteers spend their Tuesday or Wednesday afternoons making this program a success. Hendry and Glades counties will receive expanded CSFP assistance.



COMING UP...

Imagine a world without hunger! You can make that happen by joining with the Food Bank and Feeding America — the nationwide network of food banks — in **Hunger Action Month** in September. Advocate, volunteer or donate...or do all three! Call (239) 334-7007.

STOP SUMMER HUNGER!

Children receive fresh food at recent Food Bank mobile pantry distributions.



Remember that the Food Bank can turn every \$1 donated into \$8 in food value!

Mobile Pantries Keep Kids Fed While They're Out of School

It's summertime, and that means many kids out of school miss their free school breakfasts and lunches.

The Harry Chapin Food Bank aims to fill the void with 10 to 15 mobile pantries per month during June, July and half of August. Each truck holds 6,000 pounds of food that can serve 150 to 200 families with a variety of items: fresh produce; frozen chicken, deli meats and cheeses; bread; dry goods such as rice, beans and pasta; crackers, cereal bars and assorted snacks; and canned goods including tuna, vegetables and applesauce.

Corporate sponsors of the Harry Chapin Food Bank mobile pantries give much-needed support. For example, a \$50,000 grant from **Publix Super Markets** will underwrite 16 mobile pantries this summer

(each costs approximately \$3,000), and the **Windstar** community in East Naples is co-sponsoring upcoming mobile pantries at East Naples Community Park.

The Food Bank also directs people in need to parallel summer feeding programs, such as the **USDA Summer Food Service Program**, where children have access to meals and snacks at various locations throughout our service area.

"Kids like the carrots and cucumbers quite a bit, and the watermelon and summer fruits," said Louise Bain, programs outreach coordinator. "Fresh produce is not always something families can put in the grocery budget. They also love the occasional fun items, which put smiles on their faces. They are always very grateful."

National Life Group Values Volunteering

When **National Life Group** brought its top producers to Southwest Florida for a four-day meeting, it wanted to reinforce its

values on site — "Do good. Be good. Make good." Having worked with a "great" food bank near its Vermont headquarters, said Sheila Cleary, AVP recognition and conferences,

the insurance company approached the Harry Chapin Food Bank for ideas. The outcome: 35 volunteers spent a fun and fulfilling afternoon packing 2,400 hygiene kits (photo). "This was our first drive," she noted, "and our attendees loved it!"

Why hygiene kits? Because people who are food insecure also have

other unmet needs. "Our people really understood the message," Cleary noted. "It gave them the chance to give back to the local community, make a difference in people's lives, and get to know their colleagues who had come from around the country."



Volunteer Event For Kids Rocks!

It's never too early to teach children how to "give back." Which is why the Harry Chapin Food Bank welcomed volunteers 10 years and older to its first **Family Volunteer Day** on June 10.

On arrival, the youngsters took a "family" photo at the logo wall to mark the day. They then rotated through three activities: coloring/drawing pictures on brown bags for CSFP and Care & Share: Senior Feeding Campaign; making cards for clients of Good Food Is Good Medicine; and packing produce. The produce bags included an apple-shaped cut-out with the Family Fun Day logo, which each youthful participant signed.

Want to know more about how your children can get involved? Call (239) 334-7007.



Special Thanks to...

- The **JW Marriott Marco Island Beach Resort** for its food drive, "Canned Food Sculpture Department Competition" for Associate Appreciation Week. It collected 1,303 pounds of food and toiletries from 14 departments.
- The **CenturyLink** Backpack Buddies Food Drive, June 5-16.
- **Target** stores, which donated 2,200 pillows through the Food Bank to 15 partner agencies.

Harry Chapin Food Bank Photo Gallery

Find more photos at harrychapinfoodbank.org



The bins were filled to overflowing as volunteers unloaded hundreds of thousands of pounds of food generously donated through the annual Letter Carriers' Food Drive.

Publix Super Markets presented \$55,000 to the Food Bank from its "Food for All" holiday program: (above left to right) Joe Taylor, regional director; Courtney Wyatt, customer service RIS; Richard LeBer, Food Bank president and CEO; Mike Kot, district manager; Mark Royer, district manager.



The Joyce Jacobs Agency Excellence Award, named for the long-time Food Bank senior executive who just retired, debuted at the Hunger Summit. The winner was F.I.S.H. of Sanibel-Captiva for the breadth of its work with clients. Holding the award (above left) was Joi Dupler, alongside Jacobs and Richard LeBer. Receiving the Best New Agency Award from LeBer (right photo) were Liz Pecora (center) and Jo Anne Lundquist from Our Daily Bread Food Pantry,

What can your company do to help the Harry Chapin Food Bank fight hunger in our communities? To learn more, call Tanya Phillips: (239) 334-7007 x141.

'Why I Choose to Volunteer for the Food Bank...'

Beth Kohl: "I retired a little over a year ago and decided to give something back to the community. I started coming three days a week and I really enjoy it. It's three hours of not-so-very-hard work, and you get a real sense of satisfaction by doing it."



Ginette McCoy: "It's so easy to complain about all the sad stories in this world. When you're here and you actually do the work, there's so much less to complain about, because you know you are part of the solution. It gives a tremendous amount of hope."



Doug Souder: "My father was a minister, and we did stuff like this all the time. We happen to be OK, so we decided to help others who may not be quite as fortunate as we are. I'd recommend it for anybody. It's a great experience."



We invite you to tour the warehouse and learn how you can make a difference!
Call (239) 334-7007.

Food from Cape Coral Caring Center Gives ‘Breathing Room’ to Families

The **Cape Coral Caring Center** has been all about just that — caring — since its inception in February 1990.

Just look at last year, when this partner agency of the Harry Chapin Food Bank provided 145 tons of food through its emergency pantry. While it assists with electric bills, clothing vouchers and job skills, giving food is 75 percent of what the center does. “And we give food very generously,”



Cape Coral Caring Center’s pantry offers food for those with special dietary needs.

said Julie Ferguson, executive director. “Enough food for a week gives breathing room to families in emergency need.”

The pantry offers a variety of foods, especially for people with special dietary requirements, such as diabetic, no-salt and gluten-free. It is open Monday to Friday, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. “We actually have a waiting list of volunteers, which is a pretty awesome problem to have!” she noted.

The Food Bank supplies about 35 percent of the pantry’s food. “Over the years our relationship with the Food Bank has been extremely strong,” she said. “We couldn’t do what we do without the good food, wonderful meat and fresh produce we get from them.”

The center makes sure to give extra food in summer months when children are out of school and need proper nutrition to maintain their health. “Knowing that 11 year olds might not have help cooking lunch, we give a kid’s bag that requires little or no cooking,” Ferguson said. These

Healthy Not Hungry Kids’ bags are designed to feed a child for a week.

There are “always smiles” when clients pick up their food. One special thank-you note Ferguson received is a favorite: “You didn’t just give me food, you gave me hope.” It’s hard for her not to get a catch in her throat. “Those words are important. Giving food and equating that with giving hope, what could be better than that?”

What Will Your Legacy Be?

Leave a lasting legacy of your commitment to ending hunger through your will or trust.

Designate the Food Bank as a beneficiary of your estate with a gift of any size. Your gift may also reduce your taxes. And making a gift is easy. Consult your attorney to determine the best plan for you.

Contact Kelli King at (239) 334-7007 x202 or kelliking@harry-chapinfoodbank.org.

**No Vacation
Hunger doesn't ever
leave our community.
So please volunteer
whenever you can
this summer.
Call 334-7007**

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