ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK SUMMER 2024





This Issue:

See Your Impact in Sarasota and DeSoto **Counties!**

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Your Gifts Change Lives for the Better!

Dear Neighbor,

Many of us look forward to summer all year long — especially school-aged children. But for families who rely on free and reduced-price meals at school, the joy of summer break can be overshadowed by the pangs of hunger.

This year, food insecurity will become a reality for many local families. Florida has opted out of the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children program, which would have provided \$250 million in federal aid. As a result, more parents will need our help to fill the table this summer. You can help.

During our *Campaign Against Summer Hunger*, I am so grateful for a group of generous donors who have offered to match up to \$1 million in donations to All Faiths Food Bank until May 15. I hope you will use this opportunity to leverage your impact and help end summer hunger. In preparation for the end of the school year, please join our annual *Campaign Against Summer Hunger* with a gift to help ensure we can meet the increased demand for healthy food all summer long.

In this edition of *Food For Thought*, I hope stories like Barbara's (p. 4) will remind you of the power of your generosity. Across Sarasota and DeSoto counties, children and families can access nutritious food because you choose to support our shared mission.

Thank you for your generous partnership!

Sincerely,

Nelle S. Miller

President & CEO



Your Impact in 2023





Nelle S. Miller President & CEO

Your Gifts Go Far for a Brentwood Elementary Family

When he's not at recess or in [Jesse]*, 10, loves going to the beach with his mom, Anh, and little sister, [Leah]*, 5.

> "I am very thankful for the extra help."

The mobile distribution at Brentwood

Like many kids his age, [Jesse] discovers new things every day. A few months ago, he learned that All Faiths Food Bank operates a drive-thru food distribution at his school.

Mom, Anh, explains that to keep the family of three on track, it takes a lot of work and organization. Knowing there's healthy food minutes away at her son's school is a true relief. Your support through the mobile distribution is truly appreciated by Anh, who's working hard to provide for her children after moving to Florida from New York just two years ago. As a nail stylist, she says it isn't always easy to make ends meet.

"I am very thankful for the extra help!" Anh says gladly. When school cafeterias close for the break, your support will be a lifeline for parents like Anh. Your generosity ensures children like [Jesse and Leah] have the food needed to thrive, throughout the summer. Thank you for your generous partnership during this critical time!

Elementary is a lifeline for Anh's family.

*children's names have been changed for privacy.

Jill and Marc Give Back in Sarasota

n her career as an epidemiologist, Jill says she felt called to focus on protecting public health and our collective quality of life. Her husband, Marc, was a medical school and hospital administrator.

Together, they know the importance of nutritious food for health — and the need for hunger relief in our shared community.

Since retiring, the couple has found a special passion in volunteering at various food pantries throughout Sarasota, including the Wilkinson Elementary School and the Roy McBean Boys and Girls Club pantries operated by All Faiths Food Bank. We have been fortunate to partner with Jill and Marc for over three years, ever since the couple learned about All Faiths Food Bank and our mission at their synagogue.

"AFFB is an outstanding resource serving an important need," says Marc. "We have both been involved in nonprofit community agencies for many years. We have served on numerous boards and can't think of another agency as well run."

Thank you, Jill and Marc! We are so grateful to share our efforts with generous volunteers like you. Together, we are working to end summer hunger for good!



"AFFB is an outstanding resource, serving an important need...we can't think of another agency as well-run."

Barbara's Family is Grateful for Your Help!

Our community has weathered serious hardship in recent years, from natural disasters to a global pandemic. Recovery efforts have brought some stability back to Sarasota and DeSoto counties, but long-term effects still linger for families like Barbara's.

For the family of five, the pandemic was especially difficult to get through after Barbara's husband was laid off from his job in the auto industry due to supply chain shortages.

"Thank you so much."

Thankfully, he's working a new job now, but the family is still trying to catch up from living without income. With three children at home, aged 1, 8 and 10, it's a slow process.

That's why Barbara is so grateful for friends like you, who are looking out for her family's well-being by supporting All Faiths Food Bank. Because of you, Barbara has been



able to rely on the Food Bank's mobile food distribution at Riverview High School.

There, she can find nutritious food to ensure the family has enough to eat in the summer, and all year long. Food like fresh fruits and veggies, staples and proteins guarantee the children have the nutrition needed to thrive.

"Thank you so much," Barbara says gratefully to partners like you. With you in her corner, Barbara can look forward to many healthy family meals. Thank you!

Create a Lasting Legacy

Help end hunger by including All Faiths Food Bank in your estate plans and becoming part of the **Ending Hunger Society**. To learn more, please contact Rachel Bradley at 941-549-8140 or rbradley@allfaithsfoodbank.org



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