

# Herald-Tribune

## 3,000 volunteers for community service in 2024

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All Faiths Food Bank recently honored the contributions of its volunteers in 2024, when more than 3,000 “hunger heroes” contributed over 54,500 hours to help the food bank in its mission of ending hunger.

Activities that volunteers assist with include food sorting and packing, distributing food at mobile and school pantries, administrative responsibilities, events and much more.

The honorees recognized at All Faiths Food Bank's 2025 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon were **Regina Leach** (Sorting Star); **Giovanni Delli Carpini** (Packing Pro); **Lester Gulitz** and **Shelley Levy** (Mobile Pantry Heroes); **Sheril Miller** (Mobile Farm Market Hero); **Karen Wilkinson** (Registration Hero); **Louise Lester** (Family Pantry Hero); **Kelly** and **Rick Hornback** (Family Pantry Registration Heroes); **Alexander Wall** (High School Hunger Hero); **Art DeRiggs** (Shift Captain of the Year); **Unitarian Universalists of Sarasota** (Community Hunger Heroes); **Jeff** and **Nancy Van Niel** (Outstanding Outreach Heroes); **Matt Trumble** (New Hunger Hero); **Helen Volonakis** (Helping Hand of the Year); **Temple Emanu-El** (Fundraiser and Food Drive Hunger Heroes); **Cindy Morris** (Special Events Hero); **Vicki Hazle** (Administrative Hero); **Boar's Head** (Corporate Hunger Heroes); and **Wendy LaChaunce** (Presidential Hunger Hero).

“Our volunteers stepped up in extraordinary ways, braving record-breaking summer heat to volunteer at mobile pantries, helping our community through three back-to-back hurricanes and distributing more than 13,000 Thanksgiving turkey

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~~community has access to healthy food is nothing short of inspiring, and the impact~~  
of their efforts is undeniable. I feel so fortunate to work alongside such an incredible group of people every day."

All Faiths Food Bank is always seeking additional volunteers to help the organization serve the community. From May through September, roughly 800 volunteers are needed to cover approximately 12,000 volunteer hours for outdoor food distributions. To learn more, visit [allfaithsfoodbank.org/volunteer](https://allfaithsfoodbank.org/volunteer).

"Our volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization," CEO Nelle Miller said. "It is because of our incredible team of volunteers that, together, we're able to make such a meaningful impact for our neighbors facing hunger."

*Submitted by Sharon Kunkel*