

ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK SUMMER 2025

FOOD *for* THOUGHT



CAMPAIGN AGAINST
SUMMER HUNGER
ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

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Your Gifts Change Lives for the Better!

Dear Neighbor,

Every child deserves to enjoy summer, with all its sunshine, rest and time to play. But that isn't always the case. Without free and reduced-price meals to rely on, many children and families will soon come face-to-face with hunger.

For the second year in a row, Florida has opted out of the Summer Electronic Benefits Transfer for Children (Summer EBT) Program, leaving even more children at risk of summer hunger.

For more than 40,000 children, summer is like an emptiness they can't escape. You can help when you join our *Campaign Against Summer Hunger*.

This is a special opportunity to leverage your impact and reach twice as far, thanks to a \$900,000 matching offer



Nelle S. Miller
President & CEO

from a group of generous donors. Please, consider how far your gift will go to help protect food access and nourish our children until school resumes in the fall.

I hope the stories in this edition of *Food For Thought*, like Latarra's (p. 4), remind you of the impact that you have. We could not do this work without you.

I am so grateful to count you as a friend of All Faiths Food Bank! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nelle S. Miller
President & CEO

Your Generosity Fills Isaiah's Plate

Isaiah's mom, Naomi, describes him as "a little engineer." Just nine years old, Isaiah is learning new things about our world every day and finding the path he wants to take in life.

"He's very funny, very smart, very sweet," Naomi explains lovingly.

At school, Isaiah looks forward to math class and recess, although he also enjoys art and learning about computers.



Naomi and Isaiah share grateful smiles

"It's a relief. I don't have to spend my last \$20...it helps a lot with all of us,"

Naomi loves to see Isaiah excel at everything he tries. She works hard to make sure he has everything he needs to thrive, including crayons,

markers, good sleep and a healthy, balanced diet.

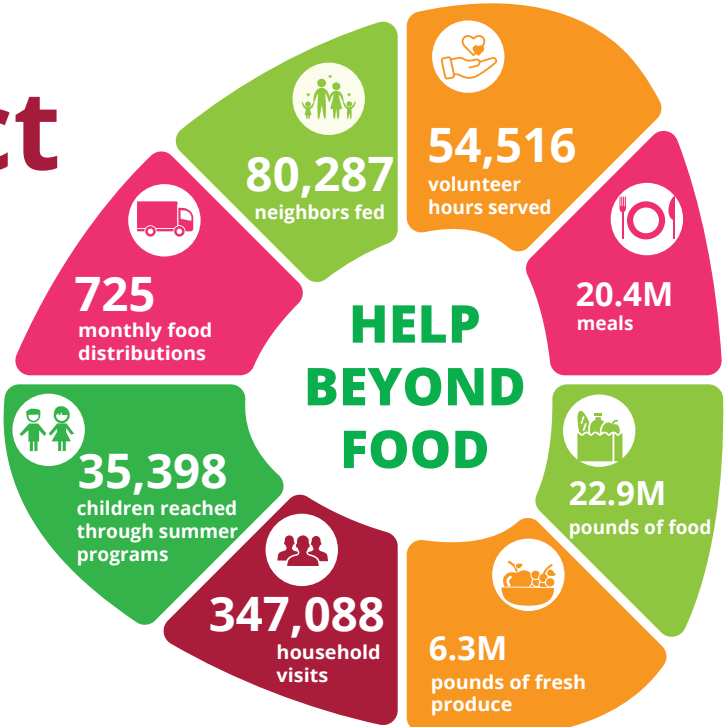
That's why she's grateful for friends like you, who ensure food is accessible all year round through All Faiths Food Bank.

"It's a relief. I don't have to spend my last \$20...it helps a lot with all of us," Naomi says in gratitude.

Always one to look out for her community, Naomi guarantees the food she picks up ends up where it is needed most. "Sometimes when we don't use the stuff that's given, we give it to other people," she explains.

Thank you for helping Isaiah stay nourished, giving him the chance to learn, play, grow and thrive this summer!

Your impact in 2024



Volunteering Fills Anita's Heart

Caring for the community has been Anita's focus for decades, first in her home in Denmark and then in the US, when she moved here at 21.

From 1975 until 2010, Anita served her neighbors as a nurse. Then, after retiring, she started volunteering to distribute food with All Faiths Food Bank.

Growing up on a small farm in Denmark, Anita and her family lived on what they could grow at home. "So I understand what it's like to... maybe not even have the means to live," she says.

During a typical volunteer shift, Anita will help distribute food at a variety of All Faiths Food Bank School

Pantries. Over the summer, this support is especially critical for many families.

Anita sees firsthand how much of a difference the help makes. "[The people receiving food are] so grateful, and that in itself gives you purpose...to be doing something for others," she explains.

If you're considering volunteering, Anita encourages you to try it out and experience for yourself how fulfilling just one shift can be. "I wouldn't want to give this up," Anita says.

Thank you, Anita, for your commitment to ending hunger!



Anita has volunteered for over three years

"They're so grateful and that in itself gives you purpose...to be doing something for others."

You Help Latarra's Family Bridge the Gap

As a big sister, Lyric, 10, leads the way for her two younger brothers. All three siblings love to read, but each have their own special interests, too.

Lyric loves arts and crafts, while Brayden, 5, and Ayden, 4, love building and playing with trucks.

All three kids enjoy their time at school, coming home to tell mom, Latarra, about their day. "They love their friends and teachers," she says. "And, of course, they love lunch."

"The people here have been so good to me. Anything I need, I know they're willing to help."

School lunch provides sustenance for the family. But during the summer, it isn't available. Latarra works hard to ensure her children don't experience any gaps in nutrition — which is why



Latarra picks up food to fill the table for Lyric, Brayden and Ayden

she regularly visits All Faiths Food Bank's DeSoto Food and Resource Center in Arcadia.

At the FRC, Latarra can pick up food to prepare healthy meals, including tasty lunches for her kids. "This really helps me," she shares with gratitude.

Talking about the supportive staff and volunteers, Latarra adds, "The people here have been so good to me.

Anything I need, I know they're willing to help."

Thank you so much for standing with All Faiths Food Bank to ensure Latarra's family, and many more neighbors in Sarasota and DeSoto counties, can bridge the summer meal gap!



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What does summer hunger feel like?

For too many children, when
school ends, hunger begins.

You can help. Give now.

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