

## Together, we're protecting food access this fall!



President & CEO

Dear Neighbor,

Hunger could be as close as your next-door neighbor, your coworker or your child's newest friend at school. But because you choose to give, hope is close, too.

Right now, we are facing a critical moment. Recent federal budget cuts to essential programs like SNAP and Medicaid are putting even more pressure on families who were already living on the edge. These cuts will mean fewer resources for our most vulnerable neighbors — children, seniors, veterans and working families — and more people turning to us for help.

At the same time, our ability to respond is being stretched like never before. And now, the safety net so many rely on is being pulled back.

On a larger scale, emergencies like hurricanes can also impact food access. Emergency preparedness is a key component of our hunger relief work — and it wouldn't be possible without you.

With your support, All Faiths Food Bank can help bridge the widening gap. We can also prepare for the unknown, strengthening local food systems to ensure that, no matter what, food is within reach.

In this issue of Food for Thought, you'll meet Daniel, father of Tyler, on p. 4. Your support enables their family to be ready for a healthy, happy back-to-school season.

Thank you for helping fill our neighbors' tables — even when hunger is close.

Gratefully,

Nelle S. Miller President & CEO

# AUTUMN HARVEST

Oct. 24, 2025 All Faiths Food Bank 6:30 p.m.



Nov. 9, 2025 **Ed Smith Stadium** 11 a.m.

### **SAVE THE DATES**

### Join us at these historically sold-out events!

Gather with friends in a meaningful way, while joining All Faiths Food Bank to end hunger in our community.

Sponsorships are now available. Bowls of Hope tickets go on sale Oct. 1. Contact Jeremy Lisitza at 941.549.8142/Jeremyl@allfaithsfoodbank.org



Scan for more information

### You Fill Jennifer's Table

On an average weeknight, you can find Jennifer and her two adult children in the kitchen, preparing a wholesome meal to enjoy together.

"I just want to thank the Food Bank and all the volunteers, they do awesome."

Whether it's spaghetti with homemade sauce from an old family recipe, shepherd's pie or chicken barbecue, Jennifer appreciates the time spent with her family and the nourishment of a shared meal. Because there was a time, before finding All Faiths Food Bank, when she wasn't sure how to fill the table.

Jennifer's daughter, who is 18, has special needs. Thus she requires a high

level of care and support during the day. So Jennifer, who is self-employed, works around her daughter's schedule.

Before learning about our mobile pantries, her tight schedule made it difficult to access enough food. Now that she attends the Gulf Gate Elementary School pantry, Jennifer doesn't have to worry as much.

The meals Jennifer makes with her daughter and son are more than just satisfying. Jennifer is in remission after a cancer diagnosis a few years ago. High-quality food gives her the fuel to stay healthy, provide for her daughter's needs and work hard.

"I just want to thank the Food Bank and all the volunteers, they do awesome," Jennifer says with gratitude. "I love them all!"



# Volunteers Ramin and Rita help with mobile pantries in various locations. ENDING ENDI

### Meet Volunteers Ramin and Rita

Parents of two adult daughters, Ramin and Rita moved from Columbus, Ohio, to Sarasota to retire in 2018. Hunger relief is a cause that's important to them, so volunteering with All Faiths Food Bank was a key part of settling into a new community.

Now, Ramin and Rita are pillars of our volunteer community, showing up regularly to help out at mobile pantries.

For the couple, the best part of any volunteer shift is face-to-face time with neighbors who are picking up food. Every box of ingredients shared means family tables filled, children fueled and community members cared for.

Volunteering with the Food Bank has been so meaningful to Ramin and Rita that they encourage anyone who can to get involved. "The feeling you get by giving back to the community is like no other, and the Food Bank is an amazing way to do that."

Thank you, Ramin and Rita, for donating your time so generously! We could not operate our mobile pantries without dedicated friends like you.

For more information on volunteering with us, please visit our website at allfaithsfoodbank.org/volunteer.

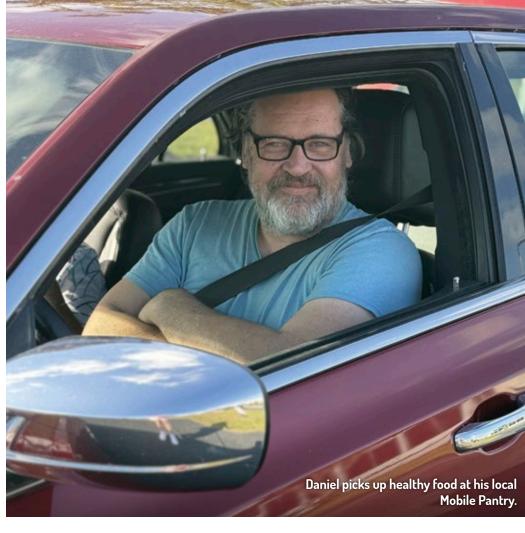
# You Make Fall Hopeful for Daniel and Tyler

Daniel's son Tyler, 11, is heading back to school this fall. He's ready to reconnect with his friends in the classroom after a long summer of playing and resting.

"Thank you very much for what you do. You help us out when we need it."

Like many parents, Daniel wears a lot of hats while raising Tyler, including *chef*. But filling the table right now isn't always the easiest task, especially after Daniel was diagnosed with a severe neurological disorder after falling ill with COVID a few years ago.

"It makes it impossible for me to work... with the price of food going up, it gets even harder," Daniel explains.



Thankfully, Daniel found hope in the Food Bank's Mobile Pantry program — especially when one came right to his neighborhood. There, your generous support is shared in the form of nutritious food.

With access to ingredients, like fresh produce and healthy staples, Daniel can ensure there's a well-balanced

dinner waiting for Tyler when he gets home.

Baked ziti is a favorite. Plus, Daniel adds, "[Tyler] likes the fresh fruit. The strawberries we get from the Food Bank are fantastic, he loves them."

With gratitude, Daniel says to you, "thank you very much for what you do. You help us out when we need it."



### Hunger is close.

Please give. The need is right next door.





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