

ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

FOOD *for* THOUGHT

SPRING 2026



ENDING
HUNGER™
ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK



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Hunger is Close, but your generosity helps.



Nelle S. Miller
President and CEO

Dear Neighbor,

As we welcome the beginning of spring, I'm glad to have this opportunity to thank you. As you'll see in this issue of *Food for Thought*, your generosity has opened many doors to nourishment and hope already this year.

Our hunger relief efforts remain critically important, as neighbors throughout Sarasota and DeSoto counties continue to feel the impact of high living costs. Chances are, someone you know is facing hunger today — a friend, family member or a next-door neighbor.

That's why we hold our *Hunger is Close* campaign — because although hunger is close, so is hope. This year, like every year, we are resolved to fill as many plates as we can. I hope we count you in for this important mission.

For neighbors like Marva, p. 3, your partnership brings much-needed nourishment within reach. Together, we can maximize the impact of our *Hunger Is Close* campaign as we prepare for the upcoming *Campaign Against Summer Hunger*.

Thank you again for everything you do for our shared communities. I'm grateful to know that friends like you are there to help make this year as bright and healthy as possible.

Sincerely,

Nelle S. Miller
President and CEO,
All Faiths Food Bank

Give smart and make a difference!

There are several ways to support All Faiths Food Bank while enjoying financial benefits for yourself:



Donate appreciated stock: Give your appreciated stocks to All Faiths Food Bank and eliminate capital gains tax.



Give from your IRA (if you are 70 1/2 or older): Regardless of whether you itemize your taxes, this gift helps you fulfill your required minimum distribution and is not considered taxable income.



Charitable remainder trusts: You may benefit from funding these with appreciated property to avoid capital gains taxes.



Donor-Advised Funds (DAF): Make a gift with a grant through your donor-advised fund.



Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA): All Faiths Food Bank and Feeding America have partnered to provide you with an opportunity to create a reliable, fixed income for your retirement while also making a valuable contribution to end hunger for years to come.



**CAMPAIGN AGAINST
SUMMER HUNGER**
ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

Join the Campaign Against Summer Hunger Kickoff
Walk to End Summer Hunger

Register at
allfaithsfoodbank.org



Match \$ for \$
April 1 - May 15

You Help Fill Marva's Table

For Marva, 78, Florida has been home for nearly as long as she can remember. "When I was six, we moved...and I've been here ever since," she says.

"We have to come to a food bank to get enough food to make it."

Now retired, Marva cherishes time spent with her family, especially her granddaughter. Together, they share afternoons making crafts or doing nail art.

"She [my granddaughter] self-learned, and then she went to nail school," Marva says proudly.

Sometimes, Marva and her granddaughter sell their crafts at a flea market in Fort Myers, but the money isn't enough to make ends meet. Combined with the barriers of fixed Social Security income, dietary restrictions and health concerns, Marva can't always fill the table.

Thankfully, Marva can visit her local All Faiths Food Bank Mobile Pantry and pick up enough food to share with the two households.

"We have to come to a food bank to get enough food to make it," she explains.

The meat, vegetables and fruit Marva picks up are a helpful supplement for her granddaughter, who is prediabetic. The money the family saves on food is used to cover other expenses and necessities, ensuring the lights stay on for craft night.



Marva picks up food for herself and her family.

Spotlight On Heritage Oaks Volunteers

No one could have guessed that a football game would lead to a dedicated volunteer effort to end hunger. But that's exactly what happened when neighbors from the Heritage Oaks community got together during the 2013 Super Bowl and started talking about their shared desire to make a local impact.

"One of our friends...identified a need and decided that [we] ought to get

together and do something with the Food Bank," Ruth Scribner, a member of Heritage Oaks, explains. Ever since that first conversation, the effort has only grown.

"Our group... raises money and provides volunteers to come here to help pack," she adds.

Volunteers from Heritage Oaks come to All Faiths Food Bank at least once

a month to help pack food for kids facing hunger. Every school year, they also fundraise to support the Backpack program, which provides healthy, kid-friendly snacks for children to take home on weekends and school holidays.

For Linda Trageser, a fellow volunteer, it's truly a meaningful way to spend time. "There's so much I can't do...but I can pack a bag of food for kids, so they'll have something to eat on the weekend," she says.

If you're considering donating time and resources, Linda guarantees it will be a rewarding and fulfilling experience. "You realize that you truly are not only appreciated, but what you're doing is really, really needed!"



Tracy Says, “I Love Y’all!”

Recently, Tracy’s family has grown by one furry friend — a dog she adopted from a coworker. With a lot of love and care, their bond has grown strong in just a couple of months.

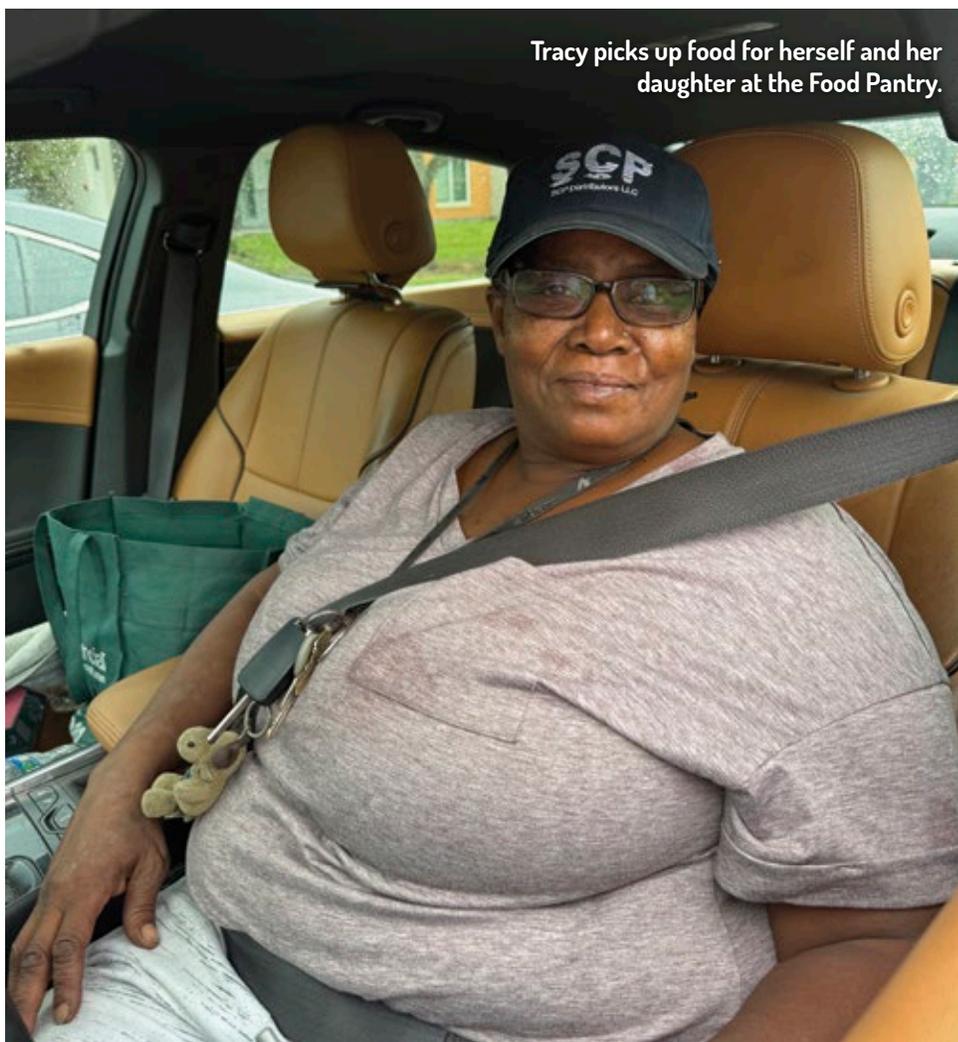
“She’s a good dog... she’s crazy about my grandkids,” Tracy says, laughing.

“It’s been a blessing for both of us.”

This small act reflects a bigger truth about Tracy: she’s always ready to care for, nurture, and show up for the people (and pets) she loves. For her family especially, Tracy would move mountains.

When we met Tracy, she was picking up nourishing food at the Roy McBean Boys & Girls Club Family Pantry, for both herself and her adult daughter.

“It’s been a blessing for both of us,” she shares.



Tracy picks up food for herself and her daughter at the Food Pantry.

Although Tracy works full-time, and often picks up double or even triple shifts at her job in receiving and processing, the income isn't quite enough to cover everything.

She isn't alone in feeling the stress — her daughter and five grandchildren

also aren't always able to afford the high cost of living, either.

That's why your friendship is so meaningful to Tracy and her family. “I love y'all, and I really appreciate everything you're doing,” she says gratefully.



Hunger is close.

Please give. The need is right next door.



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Connect with us online:

