

ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

FOOD *for* THOUGHT



**ENDING
HUNGER™**
ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

SUMMER 2021

In This Issue: Your gifts in action across our community.

Help Create a Brighter Tomorrow Through the
Campaign Against Summer Hunger!

pg 3 You Put Healthy Food on
Family's Table

pg 4 You Help Parents Provide
for Children



Your Gifts Change Lives for the Better!

Sandra Frank, JD
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Neighbor,

We're just weeks away from wrapping up another school year in Sarasota and Desoto counties — and what a school year it's been.

In many cases, our community's children have had to adjust to remote learning, hybrid learning and everything in between — all while facing everyday uncertainties around the COVID-19 pandemic.

Parents have also had a lot to adjust to. For parents whose children rely on free or reduced-price meals at school, their budgets took an early hit this year when kids attended classes from home.

Now, with summer around the corner, parents will have to find a way to make up for missed school meals for all of June, July and August — on budgets already stretched to the limit.

All Faiths Food Bank has once again launched our *Campaign Against Summer Hunger*. The co-chairs for the inaugural Campaign in 2014, Veronica Brady and Keith Monda, have

returned to spearhead this year's effort. Lead investors this year are Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation, and the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee. The 2021 goal is to raise \$1.6 million and reach 35,000 children. Thanks to a generous pool of donors, every \$1 you give until May 15 will DOUBLE to help meet the critical need for summer meals.

I hope you'll enjoy reading how your gifts are already making an impact across our community in this edition of *Food for Thought* — families like Szilvia's (page 4) are so grateful for you — *and so am I*.

Please plan to join the *Campaign Against Summer Hunger* with a gift to be matched to help feed our children in the months to come. Thank you for your vital partnership.

All my best,

Sandra Frank
Executive Officer



SCHOOL ENDS. HUNGER BEGINS.

Due to COVID-19, even more children in our community are at risk of summer hunger. You can help us keep them full until fall.

\$ for \$ Match April 1 - May 15th

Give today at allfaithsfoodbank.org



CAMPAIGN AGAINST
SUMMER HUNGER
ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

Thank You to Our Lead Investors



You Put Healthy Food on Family's Table

Natasha works hard to provide for her daughter but keeping nutritious food on the table is often a struggle on her single income. Thanks to you, she can supplement with groceries from a Food Bank Mobile Pantry near her home.

"It helps with food because if we don't have enough to eat, I can always come to the food pantry and I can create a meal for us," she says.

Natasha worked multiple housekeeping jobs, but lost work when the COVID-19 pandemic began. She's back to her regular hours now, but she's not making enough money to make up for the time she missed, especially while trying to catch up on bills.

On top of that, Natasha is going through a divorce and looking for a place for her and her daughter to live.

"Thank God that you're here. It's a big help."

– NATASHA

"I'm really struggling," she says. "I'm working but I'm not making enough to find a place for us to stay."

Natasha's daughter, Selena, can access free meals at her elementary school, but when school doors are closed, Natasha has even more meals to provide, which will be especially challenging during the upcoming summer break.

Thankfully, your support will help fill the gap.

"Thank God that you're here," Natasha says of donors like you. "It's a big help. Really."



The Next Generation of Hunger Heroes

Several Food Bank Mobile Pantry sites got a major boost of volunteer support this year with the help of more than 100 enthusiastic high school students each month.

The Food Bank launched its *High School Hunger Heroes* program in January and it's already been a success.

"The students are very enthusiastic, eager to help out, and willing to perform any task assigned to them with a positive attitude," says Victoria Hasselbring, Community Engagement & Volunteer Coordinator.

"I have always been aware of the income inequality gaps but having the opportunity to interact with underprivileged communities has provided me with a new perspective that I am grateful for. Awareness is one thing, but involvement is quite another!"

– ANYA DENNISON

Before graduation, students are encouraged to accumulate 120 hours of community service throughout their high school career. Long-time Food Bank volunteer Carol Hubbard was a secondary math teacher for 25 years, and has been instrumental in recruiting the students to volunteer with the Food Bank.

Now, *High School Hunger Heroes* gives students the opportunity to use their time and talents to not only complete volunteer hours, but to make a lasting difference in their community.

Students can volunteer at mobile pantry sites or pack boxes of food at the Food Bank's warehouse.

"Our more seasoned mobile pantry volunteers have enjoyed working with them as well and passing their knowledge and experience along to the younger generation," Victoria says.

Thank you to our amazing *High School Hunger Heroes* for choosing to help end hunger in our community.



You Help Parents Provide for Children

Local mom Szilvia wants to thank you for not only helping her put nutritious meals on her family's table — but also for giving her family culinary adventures with every bite.

"We cook what we receive," Szilvia says of the food they take home from a Food Bank Mobile Pantry near their home. "It's like an adventure because we never know what we'll get."

Szilvia says the family doesn't let any food go to waste, but instead takes advantage of the opportunity to discover new-to-them nutritious food.

"We're very open to trying different things and learning to cook the items we get," Szilvia says, recalling the yucca root they recently received. "I looked it up and put it on a salad — it's very healthy."

Szilvia's husband works as a teacher. She says it's a struggle to make ends meet on her husband's income alone while she is out of work.

She adds that the money the family saves on groceries helps them save money for other items their little girl needs, like diapers and clothes — all while making sure she receives nutritious food to help her grow and thrive.

"[You] are making a big difference," Szilvia says to friends like you. "I feel very thankful."

We echo Szilvia's sentiment – you are making a significant difference across our community. Thank you for choosing to help your neighbors who are facing hunger.



Szilvia and her daughter

"[You] are making a big difference."

– SZILVIA

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 rbradley@allfaithsfoodbank.org.



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HUNGER**
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