

From the desk of Sandra Frank

As All Faiths Food Bank marks one year since COVID-19 hit our communities, I wanted to take a moment to reflect on the ways in which you have helped ensure our food bank was able to provide nutritious food to people facing hunger throughout our community. In the same vein of gratitude, I also want to share how your support is allowing our organization to evolve to make material differences in the fight against hunger.

As food bankers, our job is twofold: to provide food to those facing food hunger today and to make measurable strides in ending hunger in the future. What we have learned throughout our years of work is that the only way to sustainably end hunger is to attack the root of the problem, which is both complex and vast.

In a year that presented many challenges, the most challenging part of 2020 was contending with unprecedented levels of need. While hunger has long been an issue in our region, the pandemic threw at-risk individuals and families into crisis. Thanks to the continued outpouring of support from the community, we have been honored to continue to both provide nourishing meals to families facing hunger and change the ways in which clients can access food, feel supported in their time of need, and eventually step out of the cycle of hunger.

I invite you to review the 2020 Impact Report to see how we have increased and evolved our work in the past year to meet client needs amidst the ongoing pandemic and to learn more about our future strategy.

I would love to have the opportunity to talk with you in further detail about our 2021 initiatives and hear your feedback about our goals. If I don't hear from you, I will follow up in the next month to circle back and schedule a time to talk.

Again, thank you for your continued trust in our work and your kindness and compassion for our friends and neighbors facing hunger.

Thank you.

Gratefully,



Sandra Frank, CEO

Reflecting on the good you've made possible.



Hunger & Health Symposium

One of the nation's foremost experts in food insecurity, **Craig Gundersen, PhD**, presented findings from the new national study on health care costs of food insecurity in Sarasota and DeSoto counties.

Crisis Challenges our Food Bank:

- Florida shuts down
- School ends in March, hunger begins immediately for children
- Business closures mean high unemployment and record numbers of people turning to the food bank
- Food supply chain collapses; food donations disappear overnight
- Partner agencies close
- CDC no-touch guidelines require radical changes to our distribution model
- Social-distancing and health concerns preclude volunteers

Immediate Response:

- Campaign Against Summer Hunger launched 3 months early
- Food distribution shifts to pre-boxed drive-thru model
- Volunteers suspended and replaced by food bank staff
- Food purchasing begins to compensate for loss of food donations
- Expanded SNAP enrollment efforts

A Year Like No Other:

- Holidays magnify the need
- 10,000 turkeys and sides for Thanksgiving dinners
- 4 million meals in November through our ThankFull Tummies and Hearts campaigns
- Reached 51% new clients since March
- Over 22 million pounds distributed in 2020



Meeting the Intensified Need:

- Massive food purchasing to fulfill skyrocketing demand
- 4,000 line up for food at mass distributions; National Guard assists
- Two semi-trucks added
- More warehouse space rented
- 44% new clients
- 13,000 visits to AFFB Food Finder website



Scaling Up for Sustained Demand:

- Recovery projected to continue through 2021
- Phase 1 of the Expansion Plan implemented
- 19 new sites open in 10 neighborhoods; total of 312 monthly distributions
- Volunteers return full force
- Investing in capacity-building and strengthening the hunger relief system



Innovation and Expansion

- Research pinpoints 10 neighborhoods most affected by COVID-related unemployment
- Intensive communication to reach new families economically harmed by COVID
- Home deliveries of food to COVID-bound households initiated in DeSoto County
- Record amounts of food being distributed
- 2 more semis added to meet the need



2020 BY-THE-NUMBERS



22,430,959 lbs
Food distributed



30,649
Volunteer hours



18,413,443
Meals



362%
More users visited website looking for food resources



8,113,626 lbs
Fresh produce



53%
New clients



60%
increase in meals compared to 2019



196
Partner agencies and programs



ENDING HUNGER
ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK



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