

ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

# FOOD

*for* THOUGHT

FALL 2021



ENDING HUNGER™  
ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

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# You're helping create a brighter future



Sandra Frank, JD  
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Neighbor,

This past year and a half has been a whirlwind, to say the least. But with your help, All Faiths Food Bank made this summer great and prevented countless children from facing hunger while they were out of school and away from free and reduced-price meals.

Now, you can help provide fresh produce for families this fall by joining our *Autumn Harvest* campaign - an initiative to connect neighbors with the fruits and vegetables they need to live their healthiest lives.

And thanks to the Rakay Family Foundation, from now until September 30th, every dollar you give to *Autumn Harvest* will be matched - up to \$100,000!

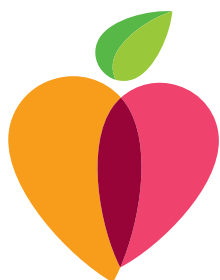
September is also Hunger Action Month, a time of year dedicated to raising awareness about hunger. There's no better time than now to give.

Until then, please enjoy reading our latest newsletter which shows exactly how you support our neighbors in need. Your thoughtfulness this time of year hugely helps families who have children heading back to school. The cost of shoes, backpacks and school supplies adds up quickly, but your generosity means families don't have to choose between the necessary fees of going back to school and buying food for the week.

You are rebuilding our community - one household at a time.

Gratefully,

Sandra Frank, JD  
Chief Executive Officer



**AUTUMN  
HARVEST**  
ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

## How do we bring the harvest to the hungry in our community?

### Food rescue at the food bank

6,066,992 pounds of fresh produce rescued in 2020.



1

All Faiths Food Bank rescues unsold produce from local farmers and grocery stores.



2

Food is picked up or delivered and stored in our warehouse.



3

Food reaches those in need through our partner agencies and programs including Mobile Pantries.

### Healthy food for a healthy community

Join the *Autumn Harvest* campaign today!

**\$ for \$ match** through **September 30**.

All gifts matched up to \$100,000 thanks to The Rakay Family Foundation.

Your support ensures children and families have access to fresh fruits and vegetables this fall.

To support our produce program, visit [allfaithsfoodbank.org](http://allfaithsfoodbank.org)



## You've Got Cynthia's Back

Earlier in life, Cynthia was unfortunate enough to experience homelessness. She saw firsthand how taxing it can be on a person to not have a place to rest their head each night.

But after a lot of hard work, determination and help from the community, Cynthia and her family were able to get back on their feet. To pay forward the kindness she and her family received, Cynthia began volunteering at All Faiths Food Bank.

Sadly, when COVID-19 began, the family's income took another major hit. Now, Cynthia is the sole provider for her daughter and

grandchildren, so she turned to the Food Bank for help.

Thanks to the time Cynthia spent volunteering at the Food Bank, she even saw several familiar faces.

"Eddie recognized me when I drove up," she says of one of the drivers.

Thanks to your generosity, Cynthia and her family received boxes of the fresh food they need to thrive. This fall, many more families like hers will also have access to the nutritious meals they need, especially as they face added back-to-school costs.

"Thank you," Cynthia says. "We're so grateful."

"We're so grateful."

- CYNTHIA

You have a huge impact on people like Cynthia - we are so grateful to have you serving our community in such a profound and selfless way!

## A Perfect Partnership

For nearly a decade, the Rotary Club of Sarasota and All Faiths Food Bank have been fostering a powerful relationship.

"We're both community-based organizations addressing the same needs," says Rotarian Louis Schwartz, who retired from the restaurant business a couple years ago.

"I love the projects we engage in," adds Nicholas Rossi, a retired Business Executive of IBM and Lockheed Martin.

Over the past few years, The Rotary Club has done tasks from packaging food for students at Alta Vista Elementary School to acquiring a refrigerated truck to greatly expand food bank distribution services.

The Rotary Club's most recent job began near the end of 2020 when the food bank let them know a mobile pantry was opening across the street from Alta Vista at the First Congregational Church.

"We told them, 'We'll show up. Tell us where and when,'" says Louis. "It's been a perfect partnership - there's no better feeling than [helping] someone in need."

**You can be an invaluable partner like Louis and Nicholas! Volunteer opportunities include:** sorting and packing food, distributing at pantries, participating in our nutrition education and cooking classes, helping in our offices and lending a hand at events! **Learn more at [www.allfaithsfoodbank.org/volunteer](http://www.allfaithsfoodbank.org/volunteer).**



# You're Growing Strong Families Across Our Community

Carlos and his son live in a multi-generational household with Carlos' sister and parents. This fall, the whole family is giving thanks for friends like you.

When the Covid-19 pandemic struck, Carlos' father was laid off from his job as a kitchen manager in a restaurant. Carla, Carlos' sister, also worked in the restaurant industry and unfortunately lost her job as well.

Carlos has a job with the city and was able to work straight through the pandemic. But it's been extremely difficult supporting a family of five on only one source of income.

"Bills come first," Carlos says. "Rent, water, electricity; whatever's left goes toward groceries."

The family is no stranger to the struggle of keeping food on the table. That's why they were so relieved to learn Carlos' son's school,



Carla and Carlos outside Gocio School Pantry, a partner pantry of All Faiths Food Bank.

Gocio Elementary, was an All Faiths Food Bank school pantry site. At Gocio School Pantry, families in need receive the fresh food and healthy ingredients required to make a well-balanced meal – something

that can be difficult to come by when facing financial hardship.

"This is so helpful to our family. Thank you so much for what you are doing," Carlos says.

To our donors who make food distribution sites like Gocio School Pantry possible, thank you for sharing food and hope in equal measure.

**"Thank you so much for what you are doing."**

- CARLOS

## 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 941-549-8140 or [rbradley@allfaithsfoodbank.org](mailto:rbradley@allfaithsfoodbank.org)



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