In This Issue:

You’re Sharing Food and Hope This Holiday Season!

pg 3  You Help Local Veterans

pg 4  Giving Thanks for YOU
Dear Neighbor,

I am so grateful for your enduring support this holiday season. You’ve provided hope in the form of food to countless neighbors in Sarasota and DeSoto counties who would otherwise not have access to healthy groceries. Your steadfast commitment to fighting hunger for your community inspires me every day.

During the month of November, we take time to celebrate veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces. In honor of their patriotism and love of our country, All Faiths Food Bank operates a pantry specifically for veterans who valiantly served and sacrificed for us.

I know you agree that the last thing a veteran should have to worry about is having enough food on the table. On page 3, you can hear from Salvator — a career marine — just how meaningful your support of the veterans’ pantry is.

And as we move quickly into the holiday season, All Faiths Food Bank is also in the midst of turning empty plates into ThankFULL hearts and tummies. The ThankFULL campaign’s goal is to share abundance with community members in need.

Thanksgiving can be a painful reminder of food insecurity. You can change that.

As you read this holiday edition of Food for Thought, I hope you’ll see what a huge difference you make in the lives of countless children, families and seniors.

Thank you for bringing hope to so many.

All my best,

Sandra Frank, JD
Chief Executive Officer

You’re Sharing Food and Hope This Holiday Season!

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Thanksgiving can be a painful reminder of food insecurity. You can provide hope in the form of food to countless neighbors.

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There’s still so much to be ThankFULL for this year.

Fill an empty plate today at allfaithsfoodbank.org

Carl Reynolds Law Puts the Community First

Carl Reynolds is a personal injury attorney who owns and operates a local law firm in his name, Carl Reynolds Law. To distinguish the company as community-driven, Carl and his staff have been serving neighbors facing food insecurity for nearly a decade.

At a holiday party, Carl’s team turned into a long-term effort to help end hunger in Sarasota.

“We’re so grateful for the hard work and significant impact that the whole team at Carl Reynolds Law has made.”

You Help Local Veterans

Salvator is a career Marine of 38 years who retired as a major. He served as a sniper and a drill sergeant for the infantry. In retirement, Salvator continues to help others for the greater good — like spreading the word about All Faiths Food Bank’s pantry serving healthy items just for veterans.

Thank YOU, our donor, for helping make this resource possible. You’re ensuring veterans like Salvator have enough nutritious food on the table this holiday season and every day of the year.

“I put a smile on my face and happiness in my heart...[that All Faiths Food Bank] is here to help people.”

Salvator comes to the pantry to pick up fresh food for himself and fellow veterans who can’t make it there. He says it’s a real gift to know healthy food is available to veterans whenever the need arises.

If you’re thinking about volunteering or supporting, Carl encourages, “No gesture is too small.”

We’re so grateful for the hard work and significant impact that the whole team at Carl Reynolds Law has made.

Give Smart and Make a Difference Before Year-End!

As year-end approaches, there are several ways to give to 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.

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The rising costs of living associated with COVID-19 have made it hard for people on fixed incomes to make ends meet each month. That includes many retired veterans.

Salvator sees this problem growing more and more pressing each day.

“With the current crisis, I see the need,” he says. “It puts a smile on my face and happiness in my heart...[that All Faiths Food Bank] is here to help people.”

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At a holiday party, Carl’s team suggested instead of a party for themselves, they create ways to support local food banks. The selfless idea from Carl’s team turned into a long-term effort to help end hunger in Sarasota.

“To be of service to the community is a humbling experience,” Carl says.

Since connecting with All Faiths Food Bank, Carl Reynolds Law has been able to expand its hunger-relief impact even further. Carl has worked with ABC7 to sponsor awareness campaigns about All Faiths Food Bank’s programs.

Most recently, Carl and his team supported and volunteered at a mobile pantry distribution that provided food to nearly 300 households facing hunger in our community.

If you’re thinking about volunteering or supporting, Carl encourages, “No gesture is too small.”

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Sandra Frank, JD
Chief Executive Officer
Before the pandemic, Felipe and his wife were both employed. There was a fantastic babysitter in the picture who cared for their 2-year-old son, Ezra, while his parents were at work. But when the virus hit, Felipe lost his job and their babysitter wasn’t able to take care of Ezra anymore.

Luckily, Felipe’s family heard about the school pantry at Booker Middle School, an All Faiths Food Bank program, from a neighbor who handed them a flyer. Felipe was so relieved to have found help.

“This food makes a difference,” Felipe says gratefully on a visit to the pantry. “It helps a lot.”

Thank you for supporting neighbors who are struggling to recover from the financial hardships brought on by COVID-19. This holiday season, we’re all giving thanks for you.

“This food makes a difference.”
– FELIPE

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 or 941-549-8140.