

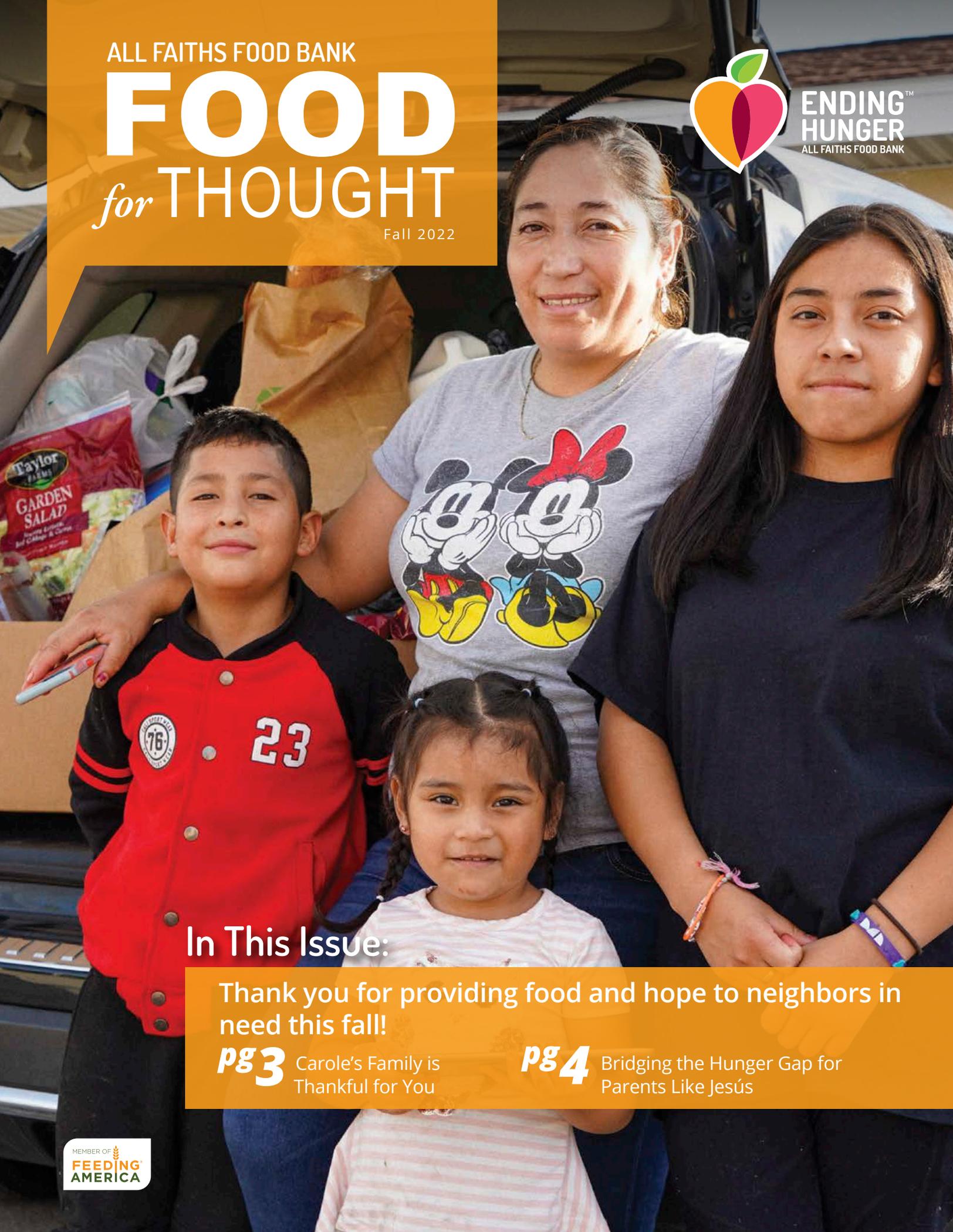
ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

FOOD *for* THOUGHT

Fall 2022



ENDING
HUNGER™
ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK



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Thank you for providing food and hope to neighbors in need this fall!



Sandra Frank, JD
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Neighbor,

To say we have been going through ups and downs these past few years is an understatement — from COVID-19 to inflation, the challenges have yet to cease.

Thankfully, friends like you have been there to help. Because of your partnership, All Faiths Food Bank was able to make sure children had access to nutritious food all summer when free and reduced-price school meals weren't available.

And with your generosity today, we can supply fresh produce for Sarasota and DeSoto County families. By joining our *Autumn Harvest* campaign, you can help connect our neighbors with fresh fruits and vegetables, even as the cost of produce and most groceries is on the rise.

September is also Hunger Action Month — a time of year dedicated to helping people in our community who are experiencing hunger. Can you think of a better time to give than now?

On the following pages of *Food for Thought*, I hope you will see how vital you are to our community. Your graciousness especially during this time of year is widely the reason families do not have to make the decision between bills and food.

Your special gift today will provide even more children, families, and seniors with healthy food.

Together, we are rebuilding our communities — one family at a time. Thank you for partnering with us to turn hunger into hope.

Gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Frank".

Sandra Frank, JD
Chief Executive Officer



When there's a
cost-of-living crisis, healthy
food can be the first to go.

Help your neighbors
balance things out.

To make a gift, visit allfaithsfoodbank.org

Carole's Family is Thankful for You

Getting laid off from her job was a challenge for Carole's family. It meant the entire household suddenly depended solely on her husband's income while she looked for a new job.

He works full-time but stretching his paycheck to care for their three children ages 7, 11 and 12, and Carole's parents was nearly impossible.

It helps that the children are back in school and can count on healthy meals there, but inflation is driving up the cost of food, gasoline, and other essentials.

Then Carole saw an article in the newspaper about All Faiths Food Bank. With 38% of households in Sarasota



A visit to her local food pantry was a huge relief for Carole's family.

County struggling to afford their basic needs, and 68% in DeSoto County, she realized her family wasn't alone!

The news article said help was available to struggling families and individuals, so Carole paid a visit to one of All Faiths Food Bank's mobile pantries at Riverview High School.

"Thank you so much."
- CAROLE

It was a huge relief to know she can access the healthy food her family needs when there's nothing left after the bills and rent are paid.

"Thank you so much," Carole says. "We don't like to accept help, but the food we get here is helping us stay ahead of expenses while I find a new job."

On behalf of families like Carole's, thank you for your compassion that is sharing food and hope during these difficult days for many Florida households.

Bob and Susan Share the Great Gift of Time as Volunteers



Bob and Susan Meisel, a retired, married couple of 38 years, have been very active in their community devoting volunteer hours through their Temple Emanu-El Starfish Initiative Group.

All Faiths Food Bank has partnered with the Temple for years, so it was no

coincidence that Susan also volunteers with the Food Bank. Once the pandemic began, she and her husband Bob joined forces to help every week.

When they found out that the food pantry at Wilkinson Elementary School was going to close due to lack of volunteers, they made the decision to expand their Initiative group into volunteering, which was originally designed to be a reading program for kindergartners. Now, the group has grown to 70 volunteers.

Both Bob and Susan are driven by service and a strong sense of values — something they've worked

to instill in their two children and three grandchildren. That's why they also volunteer at the Roy McBean Boys & Girls Club.

"It is a very satisfying time, and you get to experience the appreciation in real time," says Bob about volunteering. Susan agrees, saying, "We love handing out the food to the community who express absolute gratitude."

Thank you to Bob, Susan, and our long-time partners at the Temple who give their time to help people in our community who are struggling to afford food.

Bridging the Hunger Gap for Parents Like Jesús

Countless households across Sarasota and DeSoto Counties are struggling to stretch their budgets with the soaring cost of food, gas, housing and more.

Jesús and his wife have been working hard to keep up with higher expenses, but when their rent was increased by \$800, making ends meet became almost impossible.

Jesús's wife works on commission and is actively looking for a job with a more consistent paycheck because people aren't spending as much right now, and that results in a reduced income for her. Trying to raise a 14-year-old daughter on one steady paycheck isn't enough.

At Gocio School Pantry, every family

in need can receive the fresh and healthy ingredients required to make



Jesús outside Gocio School Pantry, a partner pantry of All Faiths Food Bank.

well-balanced meals — a necessity when facing financial hardship.

For Jesús and his family, it's critical because, like many parents these days, the money they make is going to bills and not nutritious food.

"Greatly appreciate the help during this difficult time."

-JESÚS

"Greatly appreciate the help during this difficult time," Jesús says. His goal is to one day help others the way he is being helped today.

To our donors, on behalf of families like Jesús's, thank you for sharing food and hope in equal measure.

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



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