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Hurricane Ian was very scary for sisters Yaneth and Guadalupe and their children who range in age from 15 to just five months. The storm did so much damage to both of their homes that the families have had to move, which created huge stress and financial hardship.

But Yaneth sees the bright side even as she wonders how to put healthy food on the table. “We are very lucky,” she says. “Everyone is healthy. The rest we can replace.”

Both of their husbands work in local restaurants while the sisters stay at home to care for their youngest children. Yaneth says the men work very hard, but sometimes their families need a little extra help to afford groceries — especially with the high price of food these days.

The sisters heard about the Alta Vista Elementary School Pantry early in 2022 and were thrilled to learn healthy options are available thanks to support from caring friends and donors who support All Faiths Food Bank.

“It’s nice to know there is a place we can go to get extra help,” Yaneth says. “Some people may see this as something small. But for many of us this help means everything. It means we will have enough food to eat. Thank you.”

Volunteer Spotlight: Matt and Amy

When Matt and Amy Haab moved to Florida, they immediately set out to volunteer and meet new people. “We have no friends or family in the area, so it was important to get both,” Matt says.

They were drawn to All Faiths Food Bank’s mission and impressed by the organization’s community impact. Matt says, “We get to volunteer with some of the best people you can meet as we interact with some of most special people you could help.”

Indiana natives, both Matt and Amy are entrepreneurs who enjoy helping neighbors select healthy foods at All Faiths’ Mobile food distributions. “Your life takes a shift in the right direction when you give back. Our volunteering started about five years ago when we started this spiritual journey. There are some amazing benefits to truly helping others,” says Matt.

Amy agrees. “When you truly make the time to help another person, it is so satisfying and rewarding,” she says. “Just being able to provide for others is huge. You never know the need until you extend the hand to help.”

And when Hurricane Ian struck, the couple stepped up in multiple ways to help neighbors impacted by the disaster.

To anyone considering volunteering, Matt says, “Get involved. All Faiths checks all the boxes.”
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Andrii’s Family is Thankful for You!

Andrii, his wife and two children, aged 6 and 12, are calling Sarasota home since they left their homeland, Ukraine, to escape the ongoing war with Russia.

They are staying with a friend while getting on their feet after such major life changes. But Andrii is encouraged to have found work as a window installer and is excited for what the future holds. “It gives me a sense of purpose,” he says.

A friend told Andrii about the Fruitville Elementary School mobile pantry, assuring him that his new neighbors truly care and want his family to have the healthy food they need. So for the past month, visits to the pantry have provided fresh fruit and vegetables and other staples the household needs.

When he’s not working, Andrii and his family study hard to improve their English and love to go to the beach, saying it gives them a chance to not focus on what’s going on “back home.”

Andrii and his loved ones are grateful for the warm welcome they have received from the community and for the donors and volunteers who ensure help and hope are available when needed most.

The Fruitville Elementary School Mobile Pantry is a huge help to many local families, like Andrii’s.

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