

ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

# FOOD *for* THOUGHT

Fall 2023



ENDING  
HUNGER™  
ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

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# Thank you for bringing food, hope and health to our neighbors facing hunger!



Sandra Frank, JD  
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Neighbor,

It's hard to believe we're approaching the one-year anniversary of Hurricane Ian. The effects still feel so fresh to many of us, from the damage to our homes to the emotional toll of living through a deadly storm.

We know that hunger doesn't stop for natural disasters. That's why we're so grateful that your generosity makes our disaster relief plan possible.

Last September, we distributed generators to emergency food partners, provided shelter for fellow first responders and immediately began distributing food and water as soon as roads were clear.

Today, our neighbors face new challenges in affording daily essentials. This Hunger Action Month, All Faiths Food Bank is committed to ensuring nourishing food is always available even as the need in our community soars.

**From filling children's bellies through the Backpack Program to delivering fresh produce**

**through mobile distributions, we couldn't do it without you.**

Please take a moment to read about the impact your support has had on the lives of our neighbors in this issue of *Food For Thought*, like Sharon, p. 3, who is so grateful to have friends like you looking out for her family.

Your compassion is truly an inspiration as we partner with Kittleman & Associates in our search for the next CEO of the All Faiths Food Bank.

Thank you for helping us to turn hunger into hope!

Gratefully,

Sandra Frank, JD  
Chief Executive Officer

Welcoming Back  
**AUTUMN HARVEST**

**October 20, 2023**  
All Faiths Food Bank  
6:30pm  
Featuring *Michael's on East*

Introducing  
**FRIENDS FULL OF GIVING**

**November 11, 2023**  
Casey Key Gulf front  
5:30pm  
Featuring *Innovative Dining*

17<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**BOWLS OF HOPE**

**December 3, 2023**  
Ed Smith Stadium  
11:00am - 2:00pm

## SAVE THE DATES

Three opportunities to gather with friends and family in a meaningful way.

**Join us at our 2023 signature events!**

Save your space with a sponsorship by calling **Becky Wright** at **941.549.8131**  
[bwright@allfaithsfoodbank.org](mailto:bwright@allfaithsfoodbank.org)  
or visiting our website at [allfaithsfoodbank.org](http://allfaithsfoodbank.org)

# Sharon and Her Family Are Grateful for You



A visit to the Nocatee Elementary School Pantry puts a smile on Sharon's face.

Last year, Hurricane Ian ripped through Florida, flooding and destroying homes and lives alike. For Sharon, a DeSoto County resident, the storm damaged her house and left many of her neighbors with nearly nothing.

Sharon's home was a haven, full of love and care. Her daughter and five-year-old grandson shared the home with her — the storm uprooted all three and forced them to evacuate.

Because Sharon is retired, the family has limited means to recover from the

disaster and still afford food and other basic necessities.

Thankfully, Sharon can visit a school pantry run by All Faiths Food Bank at Nocatee Elementary School. There, she can pick up healthy food for her family.

*"I say thank you to people who help out with this [food pantry]."*

Sharon's grandson just started kindergarten this year, which means he needs good nutrition to learn new things, make new friends and heal from the experience of living through one of the worst storms of our time.

Through All Faiths Food Bank, Sharon and her family have found the support of a community that truly cares, which has been key to their recovery.

"People are people, and sometimes people need help," Sharon says. "I say thank you to people who help out with this [food pantry]."



For over five years, Martha Brown has committed to ending hunger in Sarasota. She started by volunteering in our warehouse, packing donations in All Faiths Food Bank's central hub.

There, she is one of many vital hands

## Volunteer Martha Brown Helps End Hunger

that sort, pack and distribute millions of pounds of food every year.

Martha has always been the kind of person to step up and help. After retiring, she says, "it was natural to go to someplace like the Food Bank to donate my time, money and efforts."

Now, much of Martha's donated time goes toward ending child hunger by packing kid-friendly food into bags for the Backpack program. She also helps with the mobile farm market at Restoration Fellowship Church.

"It gets me out of the house," Martha says, explaining why she comes

back year after year. "[It] gives me something to do, serves a purpose. It feels like I'm doing some good."

To Martha, volunteer shifts are a time to be social, make a difference and know that she's helping someone. Martha says, "it's a very worthwhile experience."

Thank you, Martha, and all our dedicated volunteers who choose to carry the torch and help turn hunger into hope!

For more information on volunteering with us, please visit our website [allfaithsfoodbank.org/volunteer](http://allfaithsfoodbank.org/volunteer)

# You Fill William's Table with Healthy Food



Nourishing food from All Faiths Food Bank makes all the difference for William's family.

The past few years have truly reminded all of us how life can change in just the blink of an eye. That's why we're so grateful for your commitment, which provides a priceless food safety net for our neighbors facing hunger, like William.

*"Thank you very much for all your efforts to provide people with some comfort."*

Like so many parents, William dedicated his whole heart to being a good father. A Cub Scout leader, William showed his son the importance of giving back by organizing food drives and donating to All Faiths Food Bank.

When the building supply company William worked for was bought and consolidated a few years ago, nearly everyone was let go. William lost his job, and his health insurance. Two devastating shocks simultaneously...

Shortly after losing his job, William was diagnosed with congestive heart failure and couldn't safely work full-time again. He has a part-time job in a hospital now and receives some disability assistance, but the income isn't nearly enough to cover all the needs of his household, which includes William's wife, who is also disabled, and his mother-in-law.

Because of friends like you, one thing William doesn't have to worry about is where to find healthy groceries. At an All Faiths Food Bank distribution at Riverview High School, an abundance of healthy produce, staples and friendly volunteers are always waiting for William when he arrives.

"Thank you very much for all your efforts to provide people with some comfort," William says gratefully. Your partnership is a beacon of hope for so many neighbors!

## 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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