# Your impact in 2023

## From the desk of our President and CEO



As we mark our 35<sup>th</sup> year serving neighbors facing hunger in our community, I want to recognize the extraordinary contributions of our donors, partners. staff and volunteers.

### Because of your kind hearts and unwavering support:

One fewer child faces the disappointment of opening an empty fridge...

One fewer single mom wrestles with the agonizing decision of which bill to leave unpaid to afford groceries...

And one fewer veteran is forced to go without life-saving medication...

If you or a loved one have ever experienced a time of need, you undoubtedly understand the impact of a helping hand. It can lift someone from their lowest point – and instill a sense of hope.

Like most organizations, we have seen – and felt – the impacts of inflation, cost of living increases and supply chain challenges. Yet through it all, you have remained resolute in your dedication to ending hunger.

#### Here are a few things we achieved together in 2023:

- Served nearly 68,000 neighbors
- Provided more than 18 million meals a remarkable increase of more than 281,000 meals – even amid prolonged closures of agency partner distribution sites due to Hurricane Ian
- Distributed more than **320,000 "BackPacks"** of food to children facing hunger
- Expanded our School Pantry program from 13 to 20 sites giving away healthy, nutritious food at seven additional locations across Sarasota and DeSoto counties
- Reached nearly 38,000 children through our Summer Hunger programs
- Saw a 32% surge in food insecurity screenings identifying and then addressing the issue with more than 33,000 neighbors
- Generated more than **\$3.6 million** in local economic activity through SNAP benefits assistance

While we have made significant strides, there is still much work ahead to ensure everyone in our community is fed. The reality that our neighbors are going hungry is both unimaginable and unacceptable. However, through our collective efforts, we will persist in advocating for change – and continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of the people we serve.

Thank you for all you do.

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Nelle S. Miller President and CEO, All Faiths Food Bank



To learn more about our programs and services, please visit allfaithsfoodbank.org.

## **Our neighbors**

"It might not be a lot, but it means a lot to me.'

Michael, 40, has been experiencing homelessness for the last year. He dreams of one day opening a laundromat for his community. Michael often goes to bed hungry, but says the food from All Faiths Food Bank helps. "It might not be a lot, but it means a lot to me," he says.





Deborah was laid off from her job and struggles to pay the bills. Her homeowner's insurance increased – on top of an already high cost of living - and her health deteriorated. Deborah says All Faiths Food Bank "saved her." The fresh produce, meat and dairy allow her to cook healthy meals - and

At 78, Navy veteran Charles says he's happy just to wake up each morning. "I'm living the dream! I'm still alive," he says. Despite serving in the military for more than two decades, Charles can't afford food. He found All Faiths Food Bank through his VA housing program. "It helps me a great deal," he says. "It is hard getting by on very little... Thank you very, very much. It is a blessing."





"Some of us couldn't survive right now if this help didn't exist."

Linda is a full-time healthcare worker, yet still faces difficult decisions - like whether to buy food or medicine. "After paying the mortgage, association fees, insurance, household bills, car, gas – it's a tough choice what to pay with anything left," she says. "The food bank is a lifesaver... Some of us couldn't survive right now if this help didn't exist."

# 2024 signature events



For more information, please visit allfaithsfoodbank.org/signature-events/

> Register to volunteer and help end hunger - forever!



Thank you for your compassion and generosity this past year. We hope you will continue to support our mission.





