

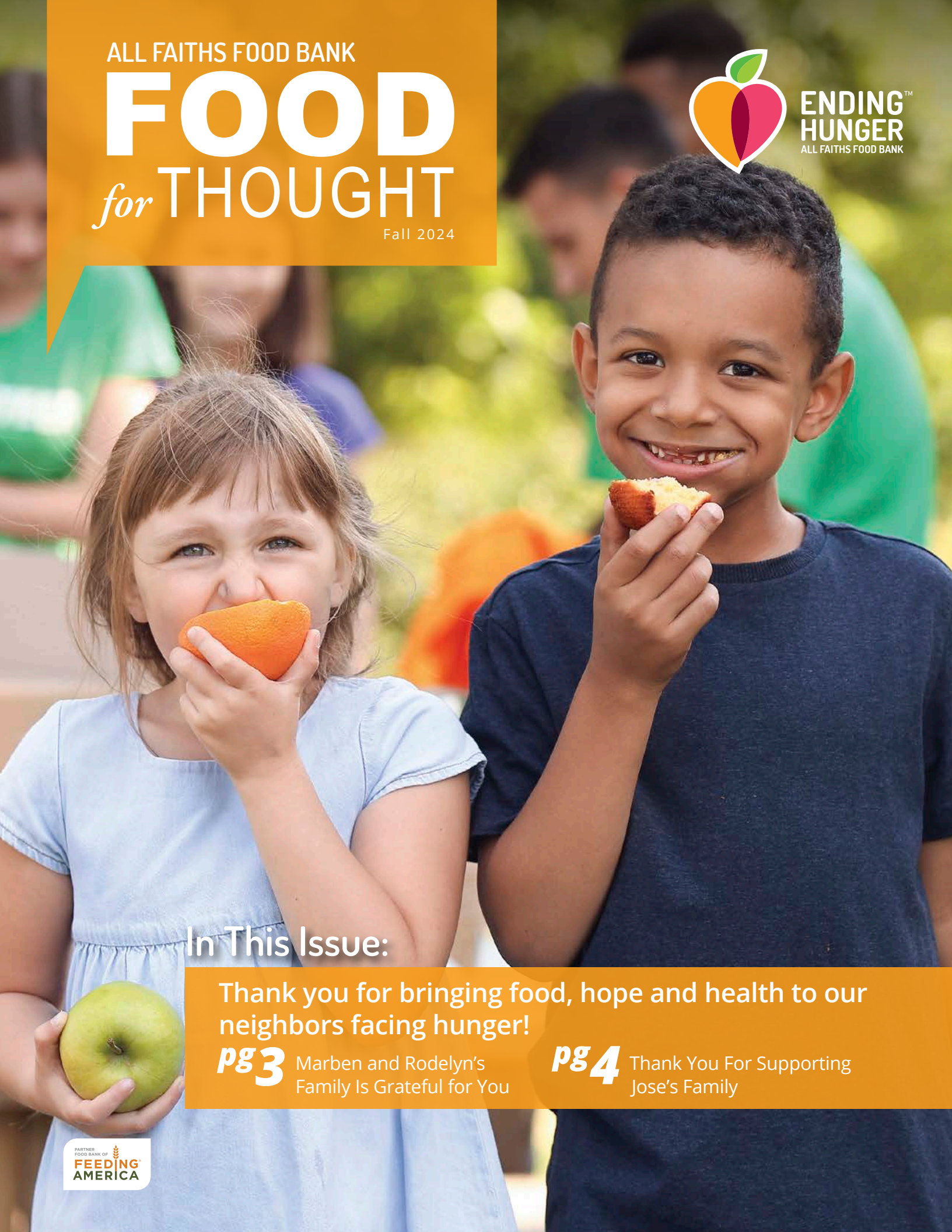
ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK

FOOD *for* THOUGHT

Fall 2024



ENDING
HUNGER™
ALL FAITHS FOOD BANK



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



Nelle S. Miller
President & CEO

Dear Neighbor,

Thank you for your friendship and support during this year of transition for All Faiths Food Bank. This is the first fall I've shared with you as CEO, and I can already see how your generosity is making a tangible difference for our neighbors facing hunger. September is Hunger Action Month, and we are proud to have you stand with us to carry out this crucial work.

High living costs are straining many families, who struggle to provide consistent nutrition for their children. Sadly, hunger is often just a house away. Nearly one-third of working families in Sarasota alone live paycheck-to-paycheck, including vital community members like nurses, teachers and veterans. They face impossible choices: rent or food, utilities or prescriptions.

No one should have to sacrifice essentials to survive, and no child should have to miss dinner. But because you choose to give, All Faiths Food Bank can ensure that healthy food is available and accessible during these months of uncertainty.

Please, take a moment to read about the impact you've had on the lives of our neighbors in this issue of *Food for Thought* — like Jorge, p. 4. Jorge and his dad, Jose, are so grateful that you share our important mission.

Hunger is close, but with your compassion, we can change that. Thank you for helping us turn hunger into hope!

Gratefully,

Nelle S. Miller
President & CEO

AUTUMN HARVEST



Oct. 5, 2024
All Faiths Food Bank
6:30 p.m.

18th Annual BOWLS OF HOPE



Nov. 10, 2024
Ed Smith Stadium
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

FRIENDS FULL OF GIVING



Nov. 15, 2024
Casey Key gulf front
5:30 p.m.

SAVE THE DATES

Join us at these historically sold-out events!

Gather with friends in a meaningful way, while joining **All Faiths Food Bank** to end hunger in our community.

Be among the first to get tickets for our sold out events by calling Becky Abraham at [941.549.8131](tel:941.549.8131)/events@allfaithsfoodbank.org



Scan for more information

Marben and Rodelyn's Family Is Grateful for You



Marben gives two thumbs up for the Booker Middle School Mobile Pantry.

Parents Marben and Rodelyn will move any mountain for their three sons Raphael, 8, Riley, 3, and Rhys, 2. That's why, last year, the family made the 36-hour move from the Philippines to Sarasota.

"It was a huge cultural change," Rodelyn says. "Luckily the boys are young enough to transition well."

As the family adjusts to life in the States, Rodelyn is holding down the fort at home while Marben works at Sarasota Memorial Hospital as a nurse.

"We are thankful for All Faiths [Food Bank] — it really is a big help!"

While Rodelyn is glad to have the time needed to help the boys through the significant change, it can be a stretch to pay for every essential on just one income. That's why the family is so grateful that friends like you choose to give.

With each visit to Booker Middle School Mobile Pantry, Marben and Rodelyn pick up enough healthy food to last the family up to two weeks. Each ingredient, from the fresh produce to the nourishing proteins, helps Rodelyn create the home-cooked meals the boys need to grow up strong.

"It helps our budget a lot, especially with a single income," Marben explains gratefully. To donors like you, he says, "We are thankful for All Faiths [Food Bank] — it really is a big help!"

With every shift, Colleen helps end hunger in Sarasota and DeSoto counties.



Volunteer Colleen Makes a Difference

Retirement freed up the time that Colleen McMenamin, 65, needed to begin volunteering with All Faiths Food Bank. After a long career with Catholic Charities, in which she partnered with us for over eight years, it felt right to start donating time to our shared cause.

"I always felt that not a single person in this country, but particularly Sarasota, should go hungry," Colleen says.

As a volunteer, Colleen sees the positive impact of gifts like yours in the community. "Everyone is so grateful for the help." For families and children especially, she says, the help is critical.

After a year of giving her time, Colleen has built meaningful relationships with fellow volunteers. "I really love the other volunteers...they're all in it for the same thing — to help people and have fun," she says.

To anyone considering taking the leap, Colleen has an encouraging word to share from her own experience. "I find it fun and rewarding, and you're helping people. It's really a win-win for everybody."

For more information on volunteering with us, please visit our website at allfaithsfoodbank.org/volunteer!

Thank You for Supporting Jose's Family

When Jorge, 7, hears the Dreamers Academy bell ring at the end of the school day, he runs outside excitedly to meet his dad, Jose. It's a special moment which Jose says he always looks forward to.

"They do great work. It's great to have people that help others."

On Fridays, Jorge brings home a bag full of healthy, kid-friendly food items through the All Faiths Food Bank Backpack Program. That's how Jose first found out about the food bank and our child-focused services.



Jose and his son, Jorge, share big smiles at the Dreamers Academy Family Pantry.

As a licensed electrician working for a local company, Jose does everything he can to fill the table for his son. But he was so glad to find out about the many resources available through All Faiths Food Bank.

After learning about the Backpack Program, Jose registered with All Faiths Food Bank to participate in the food distribution at Dreamers Academy as well.

The support helps Jose make ends meet, especially while the cost of living is so high. "This helps us not spend money that we don't have," he explains.

Speaking of the impact All Faiths Food Bank has had on his family, Jose says, "They do great work. It's great to have people that help others." Thank you for being a part of our mission!



Hunger is close.

Please give. The need is right next door.



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