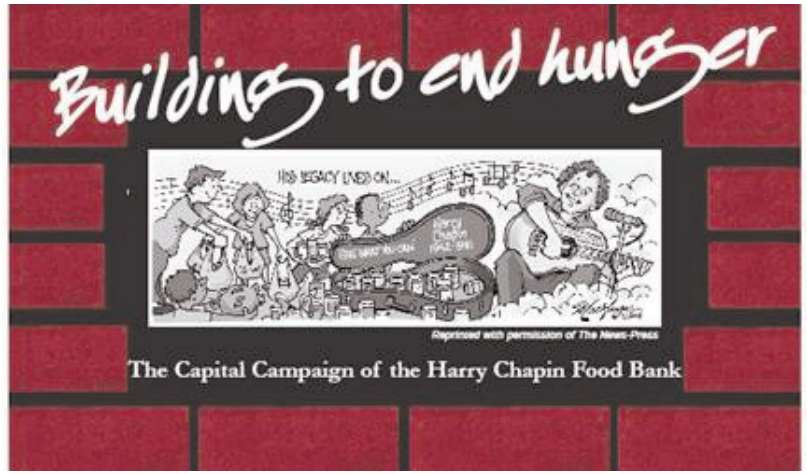




Harry Chapin Food Bank OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA



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Newsletter – Winter 2007



Food drives, like last year's Letter Carriers' Drive (above), garner thousands of pounds of food with the help of many volunteers.

Food Drives Deliver 731,000 Pounds of Food

Supermarket food drives this past fall for the Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida scored a huge success, netting more than 731,000 pounds of food.

The Publix Holiday Harvest Food Drive started in November and extended through December 31, 2006, with all Publix Supermarkets in Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties participating. Publix created the food drive displays and made up the bags, making it easy for people to

give. And they did, with Publix collecting 531,000 pounds of food.

Partner Meridian Broadcasting and Ft. Myers Broadcasting provided one-and-a-half months of on-air promotions and 14 remote broadcasts at the Publix Supermarkets to support the food drive.

Sweetbay Supermarkets started a pilot program in 2006 that provided more than 200,000 pounds of food. Close-dated meats are frozen, picked up in refrigerated van (provided by Newman's Own and the Ford Foundation), and sorted for delivery to agencies. Sweetbay also promoted a "Food For Families" drive during Thanksgiving and Christmas that generated another 10,000 pounds of food.

Capital Campaign Seeks Major Gifts

With a plan in place and the necessary legal and permitting work up-to-date, the next phase of the capital campaign for a new facility for The Harry Chapin Food Bank is primed for action.

Two supporters have purchased the land and are holding it, interest- and appreciation-free, for the Food Bank's future purchase. Architectural drawings have been completed and submitted to the city for approval.

The Capital Campaign Committee, with the approval of the Food Bank's board of directors, has retained Susan Suarez of Suarez & Associates to guide

the fundraising process to completion. The project now enters the quiet phase, when the Food Bank will be approaching foundations, corporations, and individuals to support the project with major gifts. When a certain level of commitment is reached, the Food Bank – with much fanfare – will enter the public phase, soliciting additional individual gifts to complete the goal.

The new facility, now and in years to come, will say to a four-year-old boy, to his 73-year-old grandmother, and to thousands of others in need, "Come to the table. It is set for you." If you have any questions about the Capital Campaign, contact Ed Ryan at (239) 254-3041.

Save the Dates!

Blue Jeans Ball
Saturday, March 31, 2007

The River & Blues Festival
Sunday, April 15, 2007

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The Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida

2126 Alicia St., Fort Myers, FL 33901
(239) 334-7007 www.harrychapinfoodbank.org





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How Our Food Bank Works...

The Harry Chapin Food Bank distributes emergency food through 153 partner agencies in five counties of Southwest Florida (Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Glades, and Hendry). Each month, more than 315,000 pounds of high quality food provide about 158,000 meals for people in need. That's more than 120 tractor trailer loads annually!

Our partners include church pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, after-school programs serving disadvantaged children, homeless shelters, facilities for disabled adults, day care centers, and senior citizen centers. They represent an important safety net for Southwest Florida, their missions vastly extended by collaborating with The Food Bank. This could mean an additional home counselor at an abused women's shelter, a sports or art program at a home for troubled children, or the ability to pay medication costs for a senior forced to

choose between health and hunger.

The Food Bank recovers food from supermarkets, food distributors, manufacturers, the USDA, farmers, restaurants, wholesalers, sportsmen, and through food and fund drives. The Food Bank's annual distribution of food equates to 2 million meals for needy individuals and represents a wholesale value to the community of \$6,000,000. For every \$10 donated, The Harry Chapin Food Bank provides \$90 worth of food, a multiplier rarely matched anywhere in the non-profit community.

Recently, The Food Bank received a 4-star rating in all measurable categories from Charity Navigator, America's premiere evaluator of charities. Receiving Charity Navigator's highest 4-star rating means that The Harry Chapin Food Bank outperformed almost all other charities in the U.S. in areas of efficiency, fiscal integrity, and effectiveness.

Want to Become a Volunteer? Let Us Count the Ways...

In the past year, volunteers at The Harry Chapin Food Bank contributed more than 10,000 hours of service. That's the equivalent of five full-time staff members working all year. Put another way, at the national hourly standard for volunteer labor — \$17.25 per hour — those 10,000 hours are valued at \$172,500!

That's why volunteers are so important. With their labor of love, we simply could not accomplish our mission.

Volunteers at the Harry Chapin Food Bank have the faces of working professionals, retirees, snowbirds, stay-at-home-parents, high school and college students, scouts, and members of the U.S. military. These dedicated people help with product recovery, work in our fast-paced warehouse, provide administrative support, conduct their own food and fund drives, and assist with special events. Most importantly, The Food Bank relies

on volunteers to help distribute millions of pounds of food throughout Southwest Florida.

All volunteer opportunities are customized to your skills and needs. Corporate volunteers design unique teambuilding projects, while school groups learn about hunger issues in their community while volunteering. Those with special interests -- photography, carpentry, computers, or other hard-to-find skills -- are needed as well.

During weekday business hours and most Saturdays, volunteers can help the warehouse team prepare orders for agencies, receive incoming donations, or answer busy telephones. And The Food Bank needs volunteers to assist at festivals, shows, fairs, walks, and drives.

To volunteer, contact Marta Hodson at martahodson@harrychapinfoodbank.org or call (239) 334-7007.

Our Mission...

To overcome hunger in our communities through education and by working in a cooperative effort with affiliated agencies in the procurement and distribution of food, equitably and without discrimination.

DON'T MISS THESE SPECIAL EVENTS!

Blue Jeans Ball

When: Saturday March 31, 2007

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Where: Three Oaks Banquet Center, Three Oaks Parkway, off of Corkscrew Road, just west of I-75

Ticket Price: Tickets \$100.00

About the Ball: A "Wild West" evening with great music by DJ Eric T., Boot Scootin', great grub, gamblin', biddin', and drinkin'! So round up your friends, press your wranglers, and polish your rhinestones.

Evening Hosts: Mandy Connell from WNOG Radio and Mike Adams at 92.5 Country.

The River & Blues Festival

When: Sunday, April 15, 2007

Time: 11:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Where: Centennial Park, Downtown Fort Myers

Entrance Fee: \$7.00, children under 10 are free

Festival Fun: Blues Bands, Restaurants, Special children's area with live entertainment by Nick's Kids Show.

Sponsors: Budweiser, Modern Air and the News-Press.

Presented by: The Florida Restaurant & Lodging Association

Donations Are Always Welcome!

While the Food Bank is grateful to accept almost any in-kind donation, monetary gifts are dearly needed.

Here are ways you can help:

- * Designate funds to the Food Bank's Capital Campaign.
- * Make a gift in support of food delivery.
- * Make a donation to honor a special person.
- * Assist with an unrestricted financial donation.
- * Donate a car, boat, RV, or other personal property.
- * Make a donation of stock or mutual funds.
- * Remember the Food Bank during estate planning.

You can donate right from our home page at www.harrychapinfoodbank.org or call (239) 334-7007 for assistance.



Family and friends filled Centennial Park in 2006 for last year's River & Blues Festival.

Agency Spotlight: St. Vincent de Paul

Every Friday morning, a group of retirees rises early. With the promise of a hearty breakfast of donuts, they bring their vans to The Harry Chapin Food Bank storage facility, load up, and deliver pallets of food to 2073 Lafayette Avenue.

There, three days a week, St. Vincent de Paul-Grand Avenue opens its doors to distribute food, clothing, furniture, and a lot of hope to Fort Myers residents in need of assistance. Over the course of a year, this agency will serve more than 27,000, a number that continues to grow.

The Harry Chapin Food Bank has been working with the agency since it began food operations three years ago. Each year, from 7,000 to 10,000 pounds of food are delivered to agency clients, including three senior

complexes and seven halfway houses.

Patrick Walker and Phyllis DeSmet, the new conference vice president, lead a team of energetic and caring volunteers. The agency has operated in Fort Myers since 1959. Its official boundaries are Slater Road to the north, Carrell Avenue to the south, Ortiz Avenue to the east, and Cape Coral city limits to the west.

While some clients are homeless, many others qualify as the working poor, teetering on the very edge of being able to maintain their home or apartment. Most have no support group to which they can turn. One man lives in a cardboard box. Another saw his mobile home burned to the ground. For all of them, St. Vincent de Paul-Grand Avenue is there.

How You Can Save Us Money...

When you allow The Harry Chapin Food Bank to communicate with you via e-mail, you help us contribute even more dollars to emergency food distribution.

So call us at (239) 334-7007, write to us at 2126 Alicia St., Fort Myers, FL 33901, or send your e-mail address to joycejacobs@harrychapinfoodbank.org.

Thank you!

Hundreds Savor 'Taste of Boca Grande'

The 5th annual "Taste of Boca Grande" sold out 500 tickets this year, adding \$30,000 to the \$50,000 this event has already contributed since its inception to The Harry Chapin Food Bank.

Once again, Harry Chapin's brother, Steve, and former members of Harry's band provided music for the evening.

The 16 sponsors this year include: B n' T Liquors of Cape Haze, Boca Bay Pass Club, Coral Creek Club, Gasparilla Pools, Gasparilla Properties, Inc., Gulf to Bay Sotheby's, Hazeltine Nurseries, Inc., Italiano Insurance Services, Inc., McHugh-Porter Builders, Inc., Parsley Baldwin Realty, *Pirate Coast Magazine*, Placida Rotary Club, Southwest Plumbing, Inc., *The Boca Beacon*, and Thoroughbred Golf Carts.

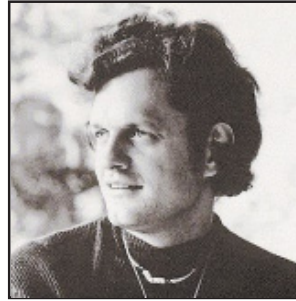
Fifteen restaurants participated: Boca Bay Pass Club, Boca Bistro, Boca Grande Baking Company, Boca Grande Club, Farlow's on the Water, The Gasparilla Inn & Club, The Grapevine, Jam's of Cape Haze, Loose Caboose Restaurant, Palmetto Grill, Pink Elephant, PJ's Seagrille, Prime Time Steak & Spirits, Temptation Restaurant, and Zydeco Grille.



Music rocked, wine poured, and food overflowed at the 5th annual "Taste of Boca Grande."

About Harry Chapin...

Harry Chapin was a cinematographer, playwright, poet, songwriter, and ardent advocate fighting the injustices he saw in our society. He was best known as a prolific recording artist and performer who gave up to 300 concerts a year. Following his convictions, he gave the proceeds of every other concert to organizations fighting hunger, which



became his primary cause. Harry was responsible for President Jimmy Carter establishing the World Hunger Commission, founded World Hunger Year (WHY), which brings grassroots organizations together to fight hunger, established the hunger

hotline in New York City, and founded the Long Island Cares Food Bank. He died in an automobile crash on the Long Island Expressway in 1981 on a night he was scheduled to do another benefit.

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