



Harry Chapin Food Bank OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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SAVE THE DATE!

- Publix Food Drive, October 15 to December 31
- Truluck's Stone Crab Festival, Naples, October 20 and 21
- Pirate Boat Parade, Cape Coral, October 27

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Newsletter -- Fall 2007

Passion to Eradicate Hunger Runs Deep in Chapin Family

Performing songwriter Harry Chapin used to tell his children that his best ideas actually came from their mother, Sandy.

It is still the case that Sandy, an educator, lyricist and businesswoman, is an imaginative fountain of ideas on how to make the world better by fighting hunger, furthering peace and expanding cultural understanding.

Harry and Sandy became striking role models for their five children, all of whom share the passion to eradicate hunger. And like stones dropped in water, the ripples of activism course through the extended Chapin family.

"I was raised as the child of two hunger-fighting activists in a home

where the issue was never far from our family consciousness," says daughter Jen Chapin. "Our parents were united in the belief that individuals and small committed groups of people can make an impact in improving their communities, and both saw hunger as the fundamental issue of our time."

Years of work by Harry and Sandy resulted in the creation of a Commission on World Hunger under President Jimmy Carter and the launch of World Hunger

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Tyson Donates 35,000 Pounds of Chicken



Susan O'Brian Brockway, Community Relations Manager for Tyson Foods, with Harry Chapin Food Bank Executive Director Al Brislain and a truckload donation of 35,000 pounds of chicken.



Photo by Claudia Lihovitz

Harry Chapin's father Jim (center), brothers Tom (kneeling second from left) and Steve (standing, fourth from left), and Jen (standing, second from left) and the extended Chapin Family.

Grants Worth \$21,500 Awarded to Food Bank

The following grant sources awarded funding to the Harry Chapin Food Bank in the past three months:

Gannett Foundation: \$10,000 to purchase 6,000 double-sided boxes. This project will enable us to transport and feed an estimated 160,000 hungry children, adults, and elderly.

Community Foundation of Collier County/Professional Grant: \$1,518.75 to cover costs associated with the Executive Director's participation at the America's Second Harvest Food Bank conference.

Community Foundation of Collier County/Project Grant: \$10,000 to cover costs associated with a refrigerated truck; driver; and transportation related to the Publix Expansion Pilot Project. Through the "Collier County Food Rescue-Expansion Project," an additional 5 percent or 15,040 nutritious meals (1.25 pounds of food per meal) will be provided to the county's neediest families and individuals in FY 2007-2008. The food will be distributed through 14 Collier agencies.



Partner Agency





**The Harry Chapin Food Bank
of Southwest Florida**

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BANK NOTES...

From Executive Director Al Brislain

**Turn Tough Times
Into Good Times**

It's been a tough summer for many of the emergency food clients. It would have been much tougher if it were not for the financial and volunteer assistance we received. To all those that supported the Harry Chapin Food Bank over the past few months, thank you!

Unfortunately, the need continues. As the holiday season looms, it will be critical that we garner as much support as possible so we can ensure it will truly be a time to be thankful and to rejoice for all of our neighbors.

There are many ways you can help, and some of them are even fun! We need volunteers to sort the food we receive so that

it is safe and appropriate for the children and families that rely on our many partner agencies. We also need volunteers to pick up food at Publix and the many other sites that do food drives during the fall and winter months. And, we need help in planning and carrying out the various special events that are so important to meeting our fundraising goals.

It's amazing what a group of people can accomplish when they work in harmony and towards a shared goal. We have a wonderful team of volunteers, but as the need grows, we need even more help. Won't you join the Harry Chapin team of volunteers? I can guarantee you will not be sorry you did. Just give us a call.

Together, we can make a difference!

For Goffs, Volunteering is a Way of Life

Something "clicked" when Ellie and Walt Goff saw an announcement in their church bulletin seven years ago seeking volunteers for the Harry Chapin Food Bank sorting room. "Food is such a basic need of life," said Ellie, "And we believe in helping people less fortunate than ourselves."

After a visit to the Food Bank, they made the commitment to volunteer, and were trained by Les and Lois Langhans. They sort food one morning a week and also work on special events. One year, the Food Bank decided to place chairs close to the stage at the Bonita Tomato Seafood Festival and charge for them. Walt helped set up about 300 chairs...and no one used them! Those who attended chose to sit in their own lawn chairs farther back from the stage. Of course, all the chairs had to be taken down after the performance, Walt laughs.

The Goffs were born and raised in mid-Michigan. They met at the grocery store

Walt managed when Ellie was shopping for her home economics class. After 40 years in the grocery business, Walt ended his career owning five independent stores. During their 39-year marriage, volunteering at the 4-H, church, school and hospital became a way of life for Ellie, and she and Walt imparted those values to their son Jeffrey and daughter Julie – and soon to grandson Gavin!

**How You Can Help
The Harry Chapin
Food Bank...**

Donate time...to sort food or hold a food drive in your community.

Donate food...when you buy through our partners' programs.

Donate funds...that will help us distribute food to 20,000 people every day. Call 334-7007 or visit www.harrychapinfoodbank.org.

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.

Agency Spotlight: Hot Food Means a Lot at Kids Café

What do you get when you stir together New Operation Cooper Street, Inc., Charlotte Regional Medical Center/HMA, and the Harry Chapin Food Bank? Why, 100 hot meals every Tuesday and Thursday at the Cooper Street Kids Café!

The collaboration shows how one plus one equals a lot more than three.

Transported from school every day by bus and van, more than 160 children, ages four to 18, arrive every day to New Operation Cooper Street. Their afternoons are devoted to homework assistance, one-on-one math and reading tutorials, cultural enrichment (music and arts and

crafts), recreational sports, and leadership development, with funding from the city of Punta Gorda, Charlotte County, the Florida Department of Education, United Way and contributions.

With food from the Harry Chapin Food Bank, Charlotte Regional Medical Center's nutrition staff cooks and delivers 100 hot

meals (up from 40 at the program's start) every Tuesday and Thursday to children registered in the program. On the other days, drinks and snacks are provided.

The meals might be pork chops one day, hamburgers on another day, macaroni and cheese or potato tarts on another, with all menus screened by a dietitian, says Director of Nutritional Services Win Kron.

"Many of the children here are in poverty, and don't always have a hot meal for dinner," says Grace Nurse, Executive Director, New Operation Cooper Street, Inc. "This is a lifesaver to them and their families."

Special thanks to... the Martin Foundation for its generous award of \$50,000 in November 2006 to support the Food Bank in building a 52,000-sq.-ft. warehouse to meet the growing needs of our community.



Adult volunteers (more than 50 during season) are recognized at Cooper Street Kids Café, where the children did the serving!

Chapin Family...*(Continued from page 1)*

Year (WHY). Harry's death in 1981 did not stop the good fight. "By the time I was in high school, hunger-fighting heroes like author/activist Francie (Frances Moore) Lappé and (Dr. J.) Larry Brown were as well known to me as pop stars," Jen says.

Sandy, Jen and her siblings, her uncles, Tom and Steve (and James before he died), and the extended Chapin family have worked to understand the root causes of hunger and poverty and to propel change in the realms of agriculture, education, health care, housing, nutrition, and wages.

"The fight against hunger and poverty has not gotten any simpler, but things have become a little more clear," Jen believes. The expanding epidemics of obesity, diabetes and related health problems, the consolidation of food production and the disappearance of family farms all disproportionately affect the poor and vulnerable. "We are learning that everyone benefits when more people are well nourished and self-reliant, she says."

Most of what Harry talked about still rings true, adds his brother, Tom. "America

can and should feed itself, hunger and poverty are cruelly linked, people in every part of this nation are suffering, and a world that is hungry is a desperate place," he says.

Fighting hunger is a legacy Harry left with the Chapin family — even Harry's 88-year-old father Jim, a jazz drummer who lives in Estero and helps with Food Bank benefits. "When Harry became passionate about something, it was inevitable that it would soon involve all of us," says Harry's brother, Steve. "The Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida has embodied Harry's passion since 1990, and the Chapins are proud to be associated with this organization."

Chick-fil-A Gets Behind Hunger Awareness Day

Chick-fil-A owners Wanda and Steve Bishop join Harry Chapin Food Bank Executive Director Al Brislain (at right), Chris Coyote (holding Christopher Linden) and Diane Linden (below) at Hunger Awareness Day in June.



Remembering Lucian Turk

"Toot Toot Banana Oil!" was long-time Harry Chapin Food Bank volunteer Lucian Turk's favorite greeting. It was the essence of him, said his wife, Shirley, and family and friends sorely miss hearing it since he passed away on July 22, 2007.

Turk began volunteering at the Food Bank more than 12 years ago. For the past few years he was the team leader on Tuesday afternoons. At his memorial service, family members mentioned how much his work at the Food Bank meant to him. And he was just as important to the Food Bank.

Always upbeat and happy, Lucian Turk will be warmly remembered by all his Food Bank friends.

Corporate Partner: Leather Medic

'You Can Do Good and Have Fun at the Same Time'

When researching an organization to name as its corporate charity, Kyle Life, President of Leather Medic, came face to face with the misconceptions most people have about hunger. She assumed, like many, that the majority of people being helped were lazy and not working by choice. She quickly discovered this was not the case.

"I learned that the majority of people who are hungry are the working poor," Life explains. "I also never made the connection between hunger and obesity, since the working poor eat the cheapest foods, which happen to be the most fattening and least nutritious."

Life had not thought about the importance of the right food in helping children learn and adults perform better. It occurred to her that most people wouldn't know this either.

That motivated Life to become involved with the Harry Chapin Food Bank and name it Leather Medic's corporate

charity. She volunteered and recruited co-workers and friends to sort food at the warehouse. "It was actually fun!" she says. "We quickly realized that you can do good and have fun at the same time. In under three hours, we sorted 2,800 pounds of food, which equals 2,240 meals. It was very rewarding."

Leather Medic, which specializes in leather and vinyl repair for automotive, furniture, marine and commercial care markets from its headquarters in Fort Myers, is growing its involvement with the Food Bank. It created a Bucks For A Truck Casino Night Fundraiser, scheduled for January 5, 2008, at Gateway Golf and Country Club. All proceeds will go to the campaign fund to raise \$30,000 for a much-needed refrigerated delivery truck



Leather Medic associates sorting food and having fun at the Harry Chapin Food Bank warehouse.

for the Food Bank. Leather Medic is seeking corporate sponsors to donate prizes for its silent auction, as well as table (\$300) and slot machine (\$100) sponsors. Call (239) 561-0423 to become a sponsor.

With the company celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2008 and successfully franchising its concept across the country, Life hopes to expand her Food Bank efforts.

"I believe this cause will receive a lot more support if the public is made aware of the Food Bank and its far-reaching benefits," she says.

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