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Harry Chapin Food Bank

OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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Plea Goes Out and 76 Turkeys Come In! Hearing of a turkey shortage at Thanksgiving, Sebastien Saïtta (shown with the Food Bank’s agency relations manager Suzanne Foster) delivered 1,864 pounds, courtesy of Marco Island-based Mediterranean Meals. Along with \$5,000 from the Copham Family Foundation, \$3,000 from Southwest Florida Community Foundation and \$2,000 from Collier Community Foundation, the Food Bank distributed 4,000 turkeys.

Events Deliver Much More Than Cash and Food Donations

For the Harry Chapin Food Bank, the Arizona Pizza Poker Run and Car Show this past November means so much more than the \$7,000 it raised and the many food items donated.

Events like this one spread awareness of hunger in Southwest Florida, make new friends for the Food Bank, and bring in new volunteers. For example, the relationships the Food Bank forged with representatives from Bank of America and Starbucks Coffee Company, who were on the planning committee for the Arizona Pizza event, have opened the door to canister collections in 50 bank locations and eight Starbucks cafés.

“We believe in the health of our com-

munity, and are committed to using our resources to support organizations that provide essential services. We are pleased to offer our retail locations as collection sites and for community awareness of the Harry Chapin Food Bank,” said Gerri Moll, President, Bank of America, Lee and Collier counties.

Raising Awareness. Events have a cascading effect. In 2008, the Food Bank was invited to collect food during Aviation Day at Page Field, amassing 2,000 pounds. That initial exposure brought more than 3,500 pounds of food and \$1,345 in cash donations from attendees in 2009. And it resulted in a check of \$5,000 from the Southwest Florida Professional Fire Fighters & Paramedics, Local 1826.

Friends of Friends. When the Food Bank moved to its current building, the concrete floor for the 16,000-cu.-ft. freezer had to be jack-hammered 12 inches down, an insulated liner installed, and another layer of concrete poured. Gay Thompson

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SW Florida Community Foundation Unleashes Power of ‘Hunger’ Partnerships

When the Southwest Florida Community Foundation swings into action — as it did when the recession deepened and hunger needs ballooned — you can bet good things are going to happen.

First, it provided \$86,000 in grant money for the Hunger Task Force’s H.E.L.P. initiative (Hunger Eradicated by Local Partnerships), the brainchild of agencies on the front-line of hunger. Five partners worked together to create innovative programs that complemented one another: a gleaning program to gather fresh produce by the Harry Chapin Food Bank; a client-

choice food pantry from the Salvation Army; a model of neighborhood cafés, mobile food pantries, and case management by Community Cooperative Ministries; rice meals for distribution, provided by Kids Against Hunger; and urban gardening projects developed by Sown Together.

That was only the tip of the iceberg. The foundation enthusiastically supported, promoted, and served as repository for donations to the Hunger Relief Fund. Through the collaborative efforts of partners from media (News-Press, WINK

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Walk This Way!

Lace up your walking shoes on Saturday, January 23, when the **2nd Wink News Feeds Families Hunger Walk**, presented by Panera Bread, kicks off at Miromar Outlets in Estero! It's not too late to help us exceed our \$75,000 goal. Go to www.harrychapinfoodbank.org to register your team and e-mail friends to donate. Your support is critical to the Hunger Walk's success!

Save the Date! Gifts of Grace Gala, March 6, 2010, 6:00 p.m., Hyatt Coconut Point
 Harry Chapin Food Bank is a beneficiary at this casino night. Call (239) 277-3651 for tickets.

The Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida



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BANK NOTES...

From Executive Director Al Brislain

More Nutritious Food Helps Answer Overwhelming Need



Thousands of newly unemployed and underemployed families who never had to ask for help before have entered the emergency food system over the past two years. They are stunned by the economic conditions that have led to their current predicament.

Some people may doubt the extent of the need, or question whether the people we serve are truly needy. I invite them to stop by an emergency food program to see for themselves. It's heartbreaking.

The woman who walked more than 10 miles to a pantry, just to get food for herself and her two children. Or the two kids supporting their mom, recently released from the hospital and recovering from surgery, as they stood in the food line together. They had no food, and the children couldn't come to the pantry alone.

We at the Harry Chapin Food Bank are doing all we can. Last year, we moved into a larger facility, doubling our handling capacity and improving our efficiency. We have several new large fresh produce

donors on our list of generous industry supporters, and as a result will distribute more than 1 million pounds of nutritious fresh produce in 2010. We have added 20 stores, including the local Wal-Mart and Winn-Dixie stores, to our store pick-up program, which will deliver another 1.5 million pounds of food to our inventory. We have built new relationships with partner agencies and other community groups.

As a result, we distributed almost twice as much food in 2009 as two years before. This would not have been possible without the incredible generosity of the entire community!

On January 23, we will be holding our 2nd Annual WINK News Feeds Families Hunger Walk, presented by Panera Bread. Meeting our goal will help ensure the continuing flow of high quality, nutritious foods to the children, mothers, disabled, elderly, and many others who face difficult times. Join us in feeding our neighbors in this time of extraordinary need.

Grants Deliver Financial Support

Join the Harry Chapin Food Bank in thanking the following grantors for their generous support this past fall:

Fred and Jean Allegretti Foundation, Inc.

Bank of America Foundation

BJ's Charitable Foundation

Busey Wealth Management

Cape Coral Community Foundation

Collier County Community Foundation

Copham Family Foundation

Feeding America

Fleming and Fleming, PLC

Giving Alliance of Women Program

Immokalee Initiative Grant Fund

Daniel R. and Anne M. Harper Foundation

Leclerc Charity Fund

Moorings Presbyterian Church

Sanibel Congregational Church

Southwest Florida Community Foundation

Our Mission...To overcome hunger in our communities through education and by working in a cooperative effort with affiliated agencies in Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry, and Lee counties in the procurement and distribution of food, equitably and without discrimination.



Partner Agency



For Two Men And A Truck Drivers, Volunteering Makes Their Day

“Giving back to the community is the most important thing we can do,” said Connie Howe, owner of Ft. Myers franchise Two Men And a Truck, and manager Ray Schmoltze.

In fact, it’s so meaningful that just about all of the company’s crew of 15 volunteered this year without pay to help the Harry Chapin Food Bank. “It was very heartwarming to see these young men step up to the plate,” Howe said.

Two Men And a Truck opened for business in Fort Myers in 1997, offering moving, packing/unpacking services, and packing materials. Its participation with the Food Bank began three years ago, when Schmoltze noticed the Publix Food Drives. Now, every Monday morning during the

two annual drives (holiday and spring), a driver takes a van to the Food Bank warehouse to pick up empty bins. He then travels to three Publix stores to collect donated bags of food and returns to the warehouse, where the loaded bins are removed by forklift. It’s a fast, efficient operation.

And the bags add up: 39,294 for the holiday food drive in 2008, 2,453 bags for the spring drive in 2009.

After seeing the amount of food passing through the Food Bank’s distribution center, “it’s inspiring to know we’re a part of helping a lot of people,” said Schmoltze. “That’s why we’re ready ‘on call’ whenever the Food Bank needs us.”



By mid-December, the Holiday Food Drives at Publix (above) and Sweetbay Supermarkets had collected 51,944 bags with 294,586 pounds of food. Our thanks go to all of our partners and volunteers for their tremendous efforts!

The Food Bank thanks the **Lee County Medical Society** for its generous donation of \$10,000, and **Feeding America/Lincy Foundation** for its grant for a refrigerated truck.

Events Deliver Much More than Cash, Food

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with Cement Industries recommended James Toffoli Construction. Jim Toffoli wound up donating \$24,000 in materials and labor, as his crew hauled away the old cement and poured the new.

“The Harry Chapin Food Bank’s task to keep people fed is a very positive and noble one,” said Toffoli, construction manager. “I feel strongly about helping.”

New Donors. When the Food Bank sent the media a plea for turkeys a week before Thanksgiving, many people and corporations dropped off turkeys or money to purchase them. But Marco Island-based Mediterranean Meals, Inc., hit the ball out of the park when it delivered 76 turkeys. Owned by the Saitta family, the company produces freshly cooked, flash-frozen, organic meals, available at local supermarkets.

“We love the fact that we can donate food people actually get to eat,” said Melissa Saitta. “What the Harry Chapin Food Bank does is fantastic.”

So spread the news about the Harry Chapin Food Bank’s mission and good deeds...you may bring us a new friend!

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News, Waterman Broadcasting’s NBC-2 and ABC-7, Fox4, and WGCU), local business (CompTech Care, LLC), non-profit organizations, and the United Way of Lee, Hendry, and Glades, the fund increased awareness of hunger-related issues and raised \$405,000 that went directly to feeding the hungry in Southwest Florida.

The goal of the Hunger Relief Fund was to feed children and families when school was out. The community response was so great that the web site remained “live” for an additional two months. “One individual is still sending a small check each month,” noted Julia I. East, D.M., the

Lee County’s Empty Bowls Help Fill Coffers



More than 500 bowls created by Lee County schoolchildren with the assistance of their art teachers raised \$13,500 for the Harry Chapin Food at the November Empty Bowls event.

Foundation Unleashes Power of Partnerships

foundation’s President and CEO. “And a senior citizen on a fixed income sent in \$5, saying she couldn’t afford it, but felt others were in worse shape.”

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation’s close relationship with the Harry Chapin Food Bank is “invaluable,” East explained. “As we look for ways to improve the lives of people in our community, the Food Bank keeps us informed about what is happening with front-line food providers.”

The foundation has even managed in this tough economy to increase its allocations, distributing 17 percent more in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, than the previous year. Every \$1 of grant money translates into \$8.58 worth of economic impact, according to a study by the Philanthropic Collaborative published in December 2008. Over the 33-year lifetime of the foundation, its \$44 million in grants and scholarships have delivered \$378 million.

That’s the power of community partnerships in action.

Scouting for Food

Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venturers in just over 300 local councils of the Boy Scouts of America collected millions of cans of food during the 2009 **Scouting for Food** drive on November 21. Scouts in Southwest Florida delivered 13,748 pounds to the Harry Chapin Food Bank, 53 percent more than in 2008!

Small Charlotte Agencies Get Big Results

Size doesn't mean much to two agencies that serve impoverished neighborhoods in Charlotte County. Results are what matter to Trinity Baptist Church in Punta Gorda and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul (SVDP), St. Maximillian Kolbe Conference, in Port Charlotte.

Not only have they increased their hours of operation and the services they provide, both now qualify to distribute USDA food commodities.

Trinity Baptist Church reorganized its Community Outreach Center (COC) in October 2008 when the economy began to plunge. "Our goal was not only to feed many more people, but enable them to come for food more than once a month," said Judy Wade, coordinator at the COC.

The agency made a big leap in serving the community when it began working with the Harry Chapin Food Bank. Its first order of 129 pounds grew to 4,892 pounds this past November.

Now, the center is open every Tuesday morning from 9:00 a.m. to noon. People can come in for food assistance every

week, as well as assistance that helps them break the cycle of dependency.

A year ago, COC served 20 families per month; bursting at the seams in its 20 x 16-foot space in November, it helped 186 families and 578 individuals. Among its successes is an out-of-work father and his adult epileptic son, now no longer living in a tent. In early December they delivered a monetary donation, grateful for COC's help through their very tough times.

Also a young agency, SVDP opened in January 2008 in a space not much larger than a closet. Just 18 months later, it had moved into an 850-sq.-ft. modular unit

At the beginning of 2009, SVDP distributed \$4,000 of food a month and served 140 people; by November, it was up to \$12,500 and 700 people. Clients receive a monthly food allowance (meats, fresh produce, and non-perishables).

Volunteers make the 80-mile roundtrip to the Harry Chapin Food Bank for provisions two times a month. The agency's average pick-up is 2,000 pounds every two weeks. The Food Bank also helped SVDP

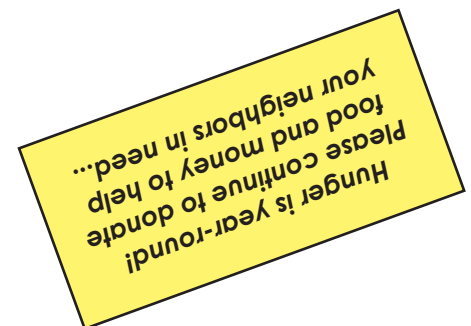


Volunteer Kenny Wade (left) helps a client receive food at Trinity Baptist Church's Community Outreach Center.

when it moved into the modular unit, pass the requirements for qualifying for USDA food. SVDP volunteers also drive to Venice every Sunday night to pick up from \$300 to \$850 worth of bakery goods from Panera Bread.

It's all worth it, when an abused woman with two toddlers finds services and food at SDVP, gets a job and an apartment, and returns to give Clara Peters, the agency's president, a hug. "It's a wonderful feeling when someone says, 'God bless you,'" she said. She is also thankful for Wells Fargo Bank, Publix, Lowe's, and Home Depot, who provided gifts and help to get the used modular building in shape.

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**The Harry Chapin Food Bank
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