SPRING 2025

Nourished

A newsletter publication of Palm Beach County Food Bank

38,400 Hot meals



HOT, NUTRITIOUS MEALS

1 Million meals



THE WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

48,200 meals



GROCERIES FOR SENIORS

43,000 Meals



THE SCHOOL PANTRY PROGRAM

12.9 Million

Meals distributed in 2024

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A letter from our CEO

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Dear Neighbor,

Since we opened our community kitchen doors at our long-awaited, symbolic bread-breaking ceremony in June 2024, our transformational expansion initiatives have been well underway, nourishing our neighbors in need in innovative ways. It's an exciting time at the Food Bank.

The buzz of activity here at our facility is heard in every corner. The scent of our **Michelle Hagerty Community Kitchen**, serving up hot meals for delivery and preparing to receive culinary students, fills the air. A thriving, expanded **Lois' Food4Kids Volunteer Center** is simultaneously boxing up meals, sorting produce, and packing pantry staples for multiple programs with twice as many compassionate volunteers.

But, the truth is, our efforts to grow our services and resources means more and more of our community needs us. **The Food Bank's growth means there is an increase in hunger in Palm Beach County.**

I wish for a day when children, seniors, families, and our Palm Beach County neighbors won't need us. A day when our programs will help people experiencing hunger provide for themselves. This is when our work ends and our vision of alleviating hunger in Palm Beach County starts.

Your support moves this vision forward. It means fewer children, seniors, families, and neighbors going through life hungry. Together, our mission of nourishing our neighbors and improving their lives one meal at a time will allow our vision to become a reality.

Thank you for seeing our vision and taking action to support hunger relief in Palm Beach County.

With gratitude and appreciation,

Jamie Kendall



Chicken Sandwich, tater tots & carrots

Summer Break Spot

Hunger doesn't take a summer break!

This summer we will officially begin our participation in the Florida Department of Agriculture Summer BreakSpot program!

Summer BreakSpot is a federally funded program helping fill the hunger gap by serving nutritious meals to Florida kids and teens while school is out at no cost to families.

Interested in participating?
Contact the Programs team at
programs@pbcfoodbank.org
561-670-2518 ext. 304 or 310

Volunteer Spotlight

For **Cathy Lozier,** volunteering at the Palm Beach County Food Bank is more than a weekly routine, it's a tribute to her mother's legacy.



Cathy's mother, a teacher and longtime volunteer with a local nonprofit, spent over 20 years feeding and caring for those in need. After her passing, Cathy stepped in to continue that mission. "I'm taking her place," she said, fittingly, on what would have been her mother's birthday.

Every Thursday, Cathy joins a group of women to pack meals for children in the Lois' Food4Kids/Weekend Backpack Program. What keeps her coming back is the impact and the gratitude. "Last year, the kids made us thank-you cards with crayon drawings. It meant everything."

Cathy's service is a living memory: steady and full of heart



"Hosting a food drive isn't just about donating goods, it's about fostering a culture of empathy and teamwork."

FPL- NextEra Energy Food Drive hosted in summer 2024

Two passionate interns organized a food drive between the Palm Beach Gardens and Juno Beach offices of NextEra Energy. Their initiative collected **346 pounds** of food, providing **288 meals** for families in need. Thank you for your leadership and generosity!

Upcoming Food Drives

May: 3rd Annual Meal Build
May 10: *Stamp Out Hunger* with the National Association of Letter Carriers
August: 5th Annual Back-to-School Food Drive
September: Take Action Food & Fund Drive (Hunger Action Month)

Transformational $2 million gift

Michelle Hagerty Community Kitchen



"I support The Palm Beach County Food Bank and wanted to name the community kitchen because **no one should ever have to wonder where their next meal is coming from**. Supporting PBCFB isn't just about food, it's about dignity, hope, and the belief that we all have a role in lifting one another up. Philanthropy is my way of investing in a stronger and more compassionate future for everyone."
- **Michelle Hagerty**

Premier Kitchen Events



J	N	Y	E	E	Z	Y	M	Q	Z	L	B	E	I	S	N
Q	R	E	N	T	R	A	P	R	L	E	O	L	K	F	P
A	R	O	J	G	Q	B	E	K	V	R	F	P	I	N	L
J	J	M	G	P	I	I	B	E	W	W	M	J	T	N	H
L	H	L	Y	U	M	V	N	Y	Q	F	T	G	C	V	M
L	K	R	V	E	C	T	E	B	H	J	V	S	H	S	Z
P	R	Z	R	C	S	B	V	O	L	U	N	T	E	E	R
C	U	P	O	U	B	C	Z	Z	F	D	P	S	N	X	U

events **give** **kitchen** **partner** **premier** **volunteer**

A Kitchen with A Cause

with Chef Doug Barg
561-670-2518
info@pbcfoodbank.org



Your generous donation will be **honored** with a hand-blown glass plate, proudly displayed on our **"Fill the Plates" wall.**

Contact us at
info@pbcfoodbank.org
561-670-2518

Benzaiten Center for Creative Arts

Fill the plates for hunger relief

Food Truck Gift

The transformational growth and extraordinary expansion at Palm Beach County Food Bank continues with the exceedingly generous gift of a food truck!

Stacey Hallberg of Northern Trust and David "Dave" Reilly gifted the Food Bank in the fall with a **fully-equipped food truck** to use for a new hunger relief initiative. We could not be more thankful to them for this exciting opportunity to nourish more neighbors in need in innovative ways. Follow us for more updates about where this food truck will go!





Empty Bowls Palm Beach Raises $123,000 to Fight Hunger



On a beautiful February Day, almost 600 guests gathered for the 12th Annual Empty Bowls Palm Beach, hosted by The Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea. Together, we provided nearly **615,000 meals** to nourish over **173,000 neighbors** facing food insecurity in our community.

With soups donated by **24 local restaurants**, a bake sale, and over **650 hand-painted bowls,** the event was a powerful reminder that small acts, like eating simply, can have a big impact. **Thank you to our volunteers, sponsors, and supporters for making this event a success!**

Thank you

Presenting Sponsors: Anne and Chris Flowers, **Platinum Ladle Sponsors:** Axis Redistribution, Leo Rosner Foundation, Perdue, Smithfield **Gold Ladle Sponsors:** Ed Carter, Debbie and Michael Pucillo, **Silver Ladle Sponsors:** DSS, Inc., Dole Packaged Foods, Ecolab/Swisher, ItalCrust, J.P. Morgan Wealth Management, Madeline Andrews, Florida Power & Light, PDS Wealth Management, Cindy and Ron McMackin, Amy and Gary Sullivan, Velocity Community Credit Union, **Bread Sponsor:** Old School Bakery.

Groceries for Seniors Program Addresses Food Insecurity at Home



Launched in 2024, Groceries for Seniors delivers **nutritious, personalized groceries to low-income seniors** (60+, or 50+ with a disability).

With over **48,000 meals** already provided, Groceries for Seniors supports **health, independence, and dignity.**

Healthy Food, Happier Kids: "Childhood Hunger Initiatives" Hot Meals Program Grows

Since July 2024, the **Palm Beach County Food Bank** and **FLIPANY** have served over **38,000 hot, nutritious meals to children** through the Afterschool Meals program.

Launched as a summer pilot, the program quickly expanded to after-school sites. Parents, through feedback shared with FLIPANY, praise the food as **"phenomenal, healthy, and made with real ingredients."**





Neighbors in need

Palm Beach County is home to nearly 1.5 million people from all walks of life. Tourists from all over the country visit year-round to enjoy the culture we have to offer. **We live where it's hard to believe hunger exists.** At the supermarket, pharmacy, and gas station, our neighbors at the checkout line might have skipped their meals today to let their children eat rather than pay medical bills or to fuel up their car to make it to work.

Neighbors like Claudia struggle to put food on the table because of unexpected circumstances. Claudia worked for nearly four decades before retiring and continuing her life with her husband. With their modest savings and both their retirement incomes, life was comfortable with enough funds to buy groceries and pay utility bills. "I thought the rest of my life was going to be fine and happy," said Claudia as she remembered her life before.

Life took a turn for the worse for Claudia after she became the victim of domestic violence at the hands of her husband two years ago. She said, **"That day, I didn't think I would make it, but I knew I had to fight."** After her husband depleted their shared bank accounts and sold her car, Claudia was left alone, traumatized, and penniless. Her children offered the little help they could, but they were feeling the challenges of inflation and increased cost of living, too.

Things started to look up when she found the Palm Beach County Food Bank. She made an appointment with one of our **Benefits Outreach Specialists** for assistance and found the **Partner Marketplace** agency nearest her to visit their weekly food pantry. Claudia shared, "I'm so grateful to Sacha [Benefits Outreach Specialist] and all of you. It's a great help."

"Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always." -Brad Meltzer

Childhood Hunger Initiatives

Lois' Food4Kids/Weekend Food for Kids parents said:

"It's given our family meal planning of healthy ways to eat. It has put food on our table."

"Sometimes I don't have anything to give to my children in the afternoon. I give them what is in the bags I get every Friday."

"The simple things like rice and dry beans helps feed us at least for two days."

"This program has served as a relief for the food needs of my children."

"Thanks to your program my children have healthy food available."



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