**Board of Directors**
Marti LaTour
*Chairman*

Nancy Bolton
*Vice Chair*

Bob O'Connell
*Treasurer*

Dorian Daggs
*Secretary*

**Board Members**
Eileen Acello
Stephen Basore
Mark Busse
Julie Daum
John Fumero
Jim Greco
Billy Himmelrich
Debbie Pucillo
Susan Rabinowitz
Laura Russell
Eric Schwartz

**Chief Executive Officer**
Jamie Kendall

701 Boutwell Road
Suite A-1, A-2
Lake Worth Beach,
FL, 33461

Phone 561-670-2518
Fax 561-670-2586

pbcfoodbank.org



## A Transformational Step Forward: Expanding to Serve Our Community Better!

Dear Neighbors,

With a heart full of gratitude and hope, I am thrilled to announce a monumental leap forward for our food bank – the opening of our new transformational *community kitchen*! This is not just an expansion; it's a collective step towards a future where we can ensure every community member has access to nutritious meals and serve our community in even more impactful ways.

As the CEO of the Food Bank, I have the privilege of witnessing firsthand the strength of our community. Yet, I have also seen the stark reality of food insecurity, a challenge that affects **173,000** of our neighbors, including **51,000** children, experiencing hunger. Our community's hunger rate *increased* by **31%** in only one year. Behind these statistics are real people, families struggling to make ends meet, children going to bed hungry, and seniors forced to choose between food and medicine.

Our state-of-the-art kitchen is our response to this urgent need. It is a hub of culinary creativity and *job training*, a beacon of hope and nourishment, allowing us to prepare nutritious and delicious hot meals for children and seniors in need. We will collaborate with local partner agencies ensuring our neighbors have access to a well-balanced meal.

Our kitchen is just one piece of this transformative expansion. We have also significantly increased our *volunteer space*, tripling the helping hands that join our mission. An expanded *food storage* warehouse means we can accept and distribute more donations, ensuring a steady supply of fresh and healthy options.

Another transformative aspect of our expansion is the integrated *wrap-around services center*. In one convenient location, our clients can access health resources and food assistance through our Benefits Outeach Program and community partnerships. This holistic approach addresses the root causes of hunger, empowering families to build a brighter future.

This ambitious two-and-a-half year project is a testament of the unwavering support of our incredible community. I want to express my sincere gratitude to our generous donors, our tireless volunteers, our dedicated staff, and most importantly the **Food Bank Board of Directors**. The collaborative partnerships with **Palm Beach County Government** and **United Way of Palm Beach County** were crucial in completing this extraordinary project. We are deeply grateful for their vital contribution in this journey.

We are investing in our community's future by addressing the root causes of hunger through education, advocacy, and collaboration. By working together, we can create a future where our neighbors are nourished and their lives are improved one meal at a time. Each of you plays a key role in our vision to alleviate hunger. I invite you to *take action* today by volunteering, donating, or spreading the word about our mission. After all, it takes a village!

With heartfelt gratitude and appreciation,



Jamie Kendall
CEO, Palm Beach County Food Bank




Sponsored by

Benzaiten Center for Creative Arts



Plates to Fill

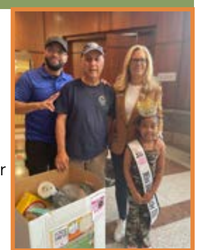
Palm Beach County Food Bank is launching our "Fill the Plates" campaign to combat hunger in our community. We are raising funds to provide hot, nutritious meals to children and seniors who rely on food assistance programs. Your generous donation will be recognized in a symbolic hand-blown glass plate along our "Fill the Plates" wall. Every dollar counts.
Together, we can nourish our neighbors and improve their lives one meal at a time. Join us in our fight against hunger and help us fill the plates of Palm Beach County neighbors in need.

| | |
|---|---|
| **Platter** $20,000 | Provide 100,000 meals to nourish our 173,000 neighbors in need. |
| **Dinner Plate** $10,000 | Give 50,000 meals for the 1 in 5 children in Palm Beach County going to bed hungry tonight. |
| **Salad Plate** $5,000 | Donate 25,000 meals for seniors on fixed incomes choosing between paying for medication or groceries. |
| **Dessert Plate** $2,500 | Contribute 12,500 meals to alleviate hunger in our community. |

## Food Drives at the Palm Beach County Food Bank

January 2024 to July 2024
707,942 meals

One Town Center participated in our June "Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation" initiative by partnering with Violet, Central Florida Miss Heart of the USA Queen of Hearts, who shares our dedication to combatting summer hunger in Palm Beach County.



**Start a food drive in 3 easy steps today!**
1. Pick a location.
2. Set a date.
3. Scan the QR code to register.

## Mother-Daughter Duo: Hannah & Vivian!

For the past four years, Hannah and Vivian have shared their passion for giving back by volunteering with the Food Bank. Hannah started volunteering as a college student. This inspired Vivian to join. "We have a skill that we can give to the Food Bank. It's rewarding," shares Vivian. This dynamic duo is an invaluable part of the team supporting us with administrative work and more. Hannah reflected, "You don't think about people needing food where you think everybody is affluent. We notice how many partner agencies exist when we do the filing." Vivian found that wearing her volunteer shirt makes her a PBCFB ambassador, offering help and information to people out in public. Hannah organized food drives at her university. We are grateful for all you do!





## Community Comes Full Circle

Rick and Cordella Miessau, past Empty Bowls Palm Beach chairs, dedicate their time to raise funds and awareness in our community, but they also provide support internationally. Little did they know that on one of their mission trips to Cuba, their compassion would have a profound impact on a couple and come full circle in Palm Beach.



Rick and Cordella met Mitchell and Yanelys while volunteering on a mission trip in Cuba. The island nation was struggling with food insecurity, and Mitchell and Yanelys were among those affected. The Miessau's were there to lend a helping hand, but they also planted a seed of hope, sharing stories about the United States and the opportunities it offered.

Mitchell and Yanelys never forgot the kindness of Rick and Cordella and they stayed in touch. After years of hard work, they secured residency in the US and began building a new life in Palm Beach County. One of their priorities was finding a way to express their gratitude by helping others in need.

To do this, Mitchell and Yanelys joined us at the **11th Annual Empty Bowls Palm Beach** as volunteers! The couple had come full circle, from receiving assistance in Cuba to giving back to the community that welcomed them so warmly.

Mitchell and Yanelys' story reminds us that the impact of our work goes beyond filling empty plates. It's about fostering connections, building bridges of hope, and inspiring a cycle of compassion. With every dollar raised and volunteer hour dedicated, we contribute to a legacy of generosity that transcends borders and touches lives in ways we may never fully comprehend. Their story serves as a powerful reminder that even the smallest act of kindness can have a lasting ripple effect.

## Donor Spotlight

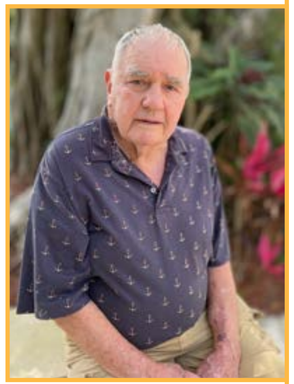
We are grateful to the **Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties** for a grant to support the Food Bank's **Pop-Up Farmer's Market**! Through this important program, the Food Bank distributes boxes of produce, along with nutritional information and healthy recipes, every other week to low-income, food-insecure neighbors in communities with limited access to fresh fruits and vegetables. With hunger up 31% in Palm Beach County, the Community Foundation grant is timely and will allow us to procure more than **9,000 boxes of fresh food** that will be distributed to **900 neighbors in need**, the equivalent of nearly **38,000 meals**. The Community Foundation for Palm Beach and Martin Counties was founded in 1972 by local changemakers who wanted to help meet community needs. Today, the Foundation is dedicated to ensuring that all people can access opportunities and achieve their greatest potential.

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
FOR PALM BEACH AND MARTIN COUNTIES



## Partner Marketplace Making a Difference

Robert, an 85-year-old gentleman, shows the challenges faced by many seniors in our community. A few years ago, after a decade of loyal service, Robert lost his job just before Christmas, leaving him with “a huge drop in income.” “Not one of my favorite subjects. There aren’t many options open to me. The food pantry helps me supplement the little I get from Social Security,” shared Robert.



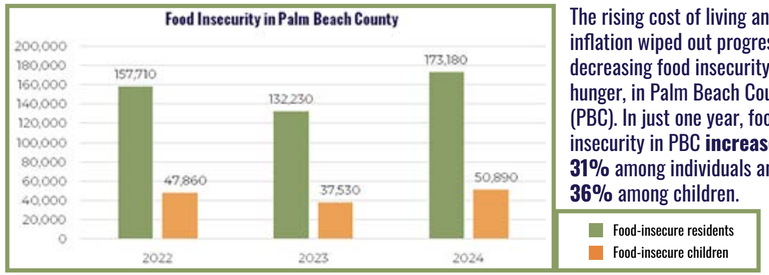
For the past five years, Robert has relied on the support of our partner agency, HACER Ministry’s food pantry. This vital resource provides him with a source of nutritious food, allowing him to supplement his limited income. When Robert needed help with transportation, the staff at HACER Ministry went above and beyond with food assistance. They made sure Robert continued receiving food by delivering it directly to his doorstep.

Robert is filled with gratitude for the people who help him. “I’m very appreciative of people’s kindness. What would I do without this? I have no clue. Everything costs $10 more than double what I can afford. It’s very expensive to live today.” He also sees the hardship faced by others at the pantry, observing that many clients are in their “50s and 60s.” Proof of the growing need for food assistance across all age groups in our community.

“There’s a good selection of good wholesome food. It varies. Sometimes there’s things for a salad, sometimes ground beef, sometimes free-range eggs. And, of course I share with my neighbors because I can’t waste food. My brother and I were little boys during the second World War and I remember some of the rationing. The people that run this are very pleasant and helpful and considerate. That counts for a great deal.”

Robert’s story reminds us of the critical role played by the Food Bank and our partner agencies. His message to anyone reading this is, “Thank you! God bless you! If someone has the means to [help], well and good. If there are concerned citizens that see a need and are concerned enough to help, that’s marvelous.”

By working together, we can make sure that no senior citizen, like Robert, faces food insecurity in their golden years. Please consider supporting our mission and neighbors in need of all ages. Your contribution will make a difference.




The rising cost of living and inflation wiped out progress on decreasing food insecurity, or hunger, in Palm Beach County (PBC). In just one year, food insecurity in PBC **increased 31%** among individuals and **36%** among children.



## Upcoming Fundraising Events

Empty Bowls Delray Beach
**December 2024**
Empty Bowls Palm Beach
**February 2025**

## Upcoming Food & Fund Drives

August - Back-To-School
September - Take Action
October - Nourish Our Neighbors
November - Color Me Kindness
December - The Gift of Hope

Events QR code

Corporate Partner QR code

Food & Fund Drives QR code

### 11th Annual Empty Bowls Palm Beach

Thanks to supporters like you, **600,000 meals** made it to the tables of our neighbors in need with funds raised during the 11th Annual Empty Bowls Palm Beach! Your contributions raised over **$120,000** this year!

That’s over **1 MILLION dollars** raised for our community across all 11 years of Empty Bowls Palm Beach!

Thank you to Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea for underwriting this fundraiser every year, for 11 years.



### 2nd ‘Day of 100,000 Meals’

In May, ahead of **World Hunger Day**, 150 of The Breakers Palm Beach team members packed 72,000 meals in only two hours for our neighbors facing hunger. To reach the goal of 100,000 meals, The Breakers volunteered at the Food Bank every Monday during their Summer of Giving. The energy every time The Breakers sea of blue “GIVES” shirts are in the room is greatly appreciated. Thank you for being a corporate partner!

To learn about corporate partnerships, scan the QR code above.



### 2nd Annual Meal Build

Thank you to **Suffolk Construction**, **J.P. Morgan**, **Vertical Bridge**, **Belle of the Ball Events by Vickie**, and **Blue Dress Archives LLC** for your partnership in our 2nd Annual Meal Build Food Drive!

Because of your commitment to taking down hunger in Palm Beach County, collectively, we raised over **4,570 pounds** of non-perishable goods and **$5,300**. With your generous donations, we can provide nearly **30,308 nutritious meals** to families, children, seniors, and individuals in desperate need.



SUMMER 2024

# Nourished

A newsletter publication of the Palm Beach County Food Bank

## Community Kitchen Expansion Project *Bread-Breaking*



Photo credit: CAPEHART Photography

On Wednesday, June 5th, 2024, **Palm Beach County Food Bank**, **Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners**, **United Way of Palm Beach County**, and community supporters broke bread to celebrate the Community Kitchen Expansion Project in the works for over two and a half years. After cutting the ceremony’s symbolic bread loaf, guests toured the new, state-of-the-art facility, which can provide 10,000 hot, nutritious meals a day.

Once we are up and running, our neighbors in need will receive daily and emergency resources from our commercial kitchen, produce processing center, increased food storage warehouse, upgraded volunteer center, and a larger Benefits Outreach Program family area.

We sincerely appreciate everyone who joined us to celebrate this two-and-a-half-year journey and transformational resource!

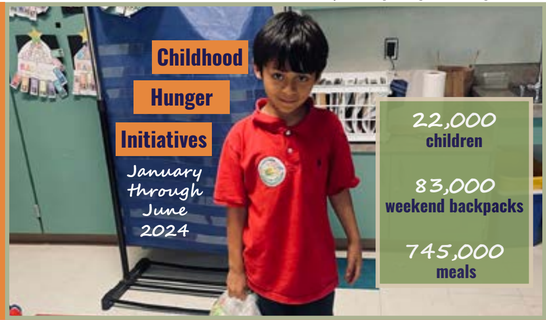


Inaugural Summer Feeding meal, beefaroni and green beans, before processing through our sealing machine.

PALM BEACH COUNTY FOOD BANK

Venmo

pbcfoodbank.org/nourished




2 CEO’s Desk
3 Take Action
4 Community
5 Programs
6 Events