MEMBER AGENCY NEWSLETTER
APRIL 2015

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

The first stages of construction are underway! All FATB staff offices will be in the break room during construction. Starting the week of April 13th, agencies will have a new waiting area outside of the breakroom.

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this transitional time. We look forward to having a new and improved experience for staff, volunteers and agency partners once renovations are complete!

Do you have an inspiring success story? Do you know a family or individual who receives food assistance that would share their story?

Contact Nicole at ntegge@feedingamericatampabay.org

DID YOU KNOW?

More than 1,500 food items come in cans. Cans are the backbone to most food programs as they are easy to transport, store, and distribute. They are a nutritious source of food as canning technology keeps food fresh and flavorful without a lot of preservatives and additives.

Interestingly, canned foods are environmentally friendly because the steel cans are 100% recyclable over and over again. In fact, food cans are the most recycled package in America today. Their recycling rate is more than 2.5 times higher than that of most other packaging options. This is in addition to the 34 million tons of food that isn’t wasted every year as it is instead canned and able to be preserved throughout the year.

FUN FACT

The steel can was invented in 1810 to feed Napoleon’s army.

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UNDER CONSTRUCTION
PLEASE EXCUSE OUR MESS

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Have you ever thought about what it would be like to walk into your agency as a new client? Would you be able to find the correct building? Would there be signs, clearly visible, directing people where to go, when you are open, and what to bring? Once you enter the building, does the intake worker hand you a long list of documents that are required that you might or might not have?

Many agencies mistakenly believe that clients innately “know” where to go and what to do. And while that may be true for many, how many turn away because of confusion, shame, or obstacles? Don’t create another barrier for needy individuals. Reevaluate your signage, notification systems, and intake process to make it easier and more comfortable for new individuals. Make your signs prominent, noticeable, and abundant to ensure that no one leaves hungry.

**Meet Jerry**

Although relatively new to Feeding America Tampa Bay, Jerry Coleman brings valuable experience to the team. Prior to starting as FATB’s Director of Operations, Jerry served as the program director for Religious Community Services’ (RCS) food bank over in Pinellas county. These years not only built upon his prior experience with inventory management, operations, and distribution but gave him valuable insight into the specifics of food banking.

Remarkably, Jerry’s impressive background extends to a variety of areas. Not only was he once a flight instructor, but he holds a master’s degree in psychology and spends nights teaching psychology, health science, and business for the University of Phoenix. What’s more, Jerry is very involved in his local Rotary Club and has completed an Ironman triathlon! Jerry couldn’t be more excited to bring his diverse set of skills and knowledge to FATB. If anyone has any questions relating to anything operations or would just like to say hi, please send Jerry an email at jcoleman@feedingamericatampabay.org.

**Highlights**

1. **Trinity Café** recently commemorated its one-millionth meal served with a benefit in downtown Tampa this past March. The event was called Feast for the Eyes – The Faces of a Million Meals. It was both a night to honor the work of countless people involved in this big milestone, serving 1 million meals! It was also an opportunity for Trinity Café to tell the stories of those they serve. That night, they gave a voice and a face to the hungry in Tampa Bay and inspired many in the community. Great job Trinity Café! You continue to be an example of what it means to serve the hungry with dignity, compassion, love, and respect!

2. Feeding America Tampa Bay and Valspar partnered up in March to build awareness of hunger in our community by building a colossal structure out of 6,600 cans of tuna. The structure depicted Valspar’s chameleon mascot, Val the Salamander, and was on display at the Valspar Championship for golf fans and visitors to enjoy. After the tournament, all the cans were donated to FATB to help provide over 2,000 meals to our hungry neighbors in need.

Special thanks to the volunteers of World Wide Word of Faith who helped us deconstruct and pack the cans!

**Grant Opportunity**

The Tampa Bay Times Fund provides funding support for nonprofit organizations in West Central Florida. Nonprofits must first submit a concept letter describing the program. If the concept letter is approved, the agency will be required to complete a more detailed application packet. Typical grants range in size from $1,000 to $10,000 and generally do not exceed $25,000.

For more information, go to http://www.tampabay.com/company/times-fund/grants and see if your food program is eligible to apply.

**Monthly Agency Meeting**

RSVP today for the next monthly agency meeting on April 28th from 1:00 - 2:00pm.

This is a great opportunity for your agency to connect with others sharing tips, advice, concerns, and news. What’s more, you can communicate with our Executive Director and upper management giving us valuable insight into how we can better improve our partnership with you. Don’t miss out! Email Nicole now.