**Winn-Dixie Charity Market**

Wednesday, August 5th was a momentous day for Feeding America Tampa Bay as the Winn-Dixie Charity Market opened to agency shopping. This room was re-designed with agencies in mind! The space is welcoming, open, and vibrant allowing you a cleaner, more efficient, and nicer shopping experience.

Please keep in mind that the majority of product in the Winn-Dixie room is perishable including bread and bakery, produce, and frozen meat. Shelf-stable items can be found through our online ordering system. Pre-ordering your dry items keeps you from having to lift and move heavy boxes of cans and other items and saves you time! It ensures that all agencies have fair access to our inventory, not just the early birds. (If you need a refresher on online ordering tips and tricks, please email Nicole.)

When using the Winn-Dixie Charity Market, please remember some of our shopping guidelines:

- Agencies may only place two online orders per week and may not place more than one per day.
- Online orders must be made 48 hours in advance.
- Agencies must take their complete online order.
- Agencies have 30 minutes to access the sharing Winn-Dixie Charity Market and only two agency representatives can be present on the floor at one time.
- Agency accounts are COD and agencies should prepare for this by placing funds on their account or by bringing a check or money order each visit.

**HUNGER ACTION MONTH IS A WEEK AWAY!**

As September rapidly approaches, one of the busiest times for food banks begins. September starts Hunger Action Month (HAM) when Feeding America and food banks everywhere work together to take action and spotlight the problem of hunger across our nation.

HAM is your agency’s opportunity to join a movement that has a real and lasting impact on our ability to feed more people in the Tampa Bay area. Whether it’s by advocating and awareness, wearing orange, sharing hunger stats and stories on social media, join us to get the word out and get others involved! Stay tuned for information on HAM events and news. Together, Feeding America Tampa Bay and our agency partners can fight hunger one success story at a time!

**Food Bank Facts**

Feeding America Tampa Bay likes to boast about our agency partners - who are the most committed, passionate, and kind people found anywhere in Tampa Bay. We have watched your programs grow and evolve as you continue to impact countless individuals. We hope you are just as proud of us as we are of you! In the last three years, we have moved from distributing 21 million pounds of food a year to 47 million pounds of food a year! What’s more, while the pounds we serve have increased, our shared maintenance fees have decreased to less than $0.03/pound on average! Our fleet of trucks has grown, our backpack program has doubled, and our staff is more than ever committed to helping your agency and fighting hunger alongside you!

**FATB wishes you a happy Labor Day!**

All Feeding America Tampa Bay facilities will be closed Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day.

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?**

You can find cucumbers almost anywhere: in your meals, drinks, beauty products, garnishes, and mostly, all over the Food Bank’s warehouse! Cucumbers are a nutritious and very common vegetable in the gourd family known for their low calories, sodium and fat; they often contain vitamins, anti-oxidants, and potassium. They are very popular during the summer as they are composed of 95% water, keeping you hydrated and cool. Often these tasty treats are pickled in brine or vinegar and left to ferment when after which they become known as “pickles”.

**Fun Fact:**

The term “cool as a cucumber” is actually derived from the cucumber’s ability to cool the temperature of the blood. Also when applied topically, cucumber really does cool the blood and eases facial swelling, which is why cucumbers are so popular in facial regimens.
**STEP UP FOR STUDENTS**

As partners in the fight against hunger, you understand that many families need more help than just emergency food assistance. Many families are stuck in a cycle of poverty that is very difficult to escape. You can help this by letting the families you serve know they may be eligible to send their children to school via scholarships.

In Florida, only 48% of economically disadvantaged children are reading at grade level. Step Up for Students is an organization that works to change this by helping to alleviate the enormous educational challenges faced by children in Florida who live in poverty. The program provides Tax Credit Scholarships to students in K-12 who come from low-income families. These scholarships allow the students to consider a participating private school or an out-of-district public school that may better suit their individual needs. This choice is not based on whether the public school is judged as succeeding or failing. Rather, it recognizes that different children learn in different ways and that our collective struggle is to help the students who often are at the greatest disadvantage in modern education. For more information about Step Up for Students, visit www.stepupforstudents.org.

**monthly agency meeting**

RSVP today for the next monthly agency meeting on August 27th from 9 - 10am.

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.