A message from Nicole

Over the past several months I’ve had the pleasure of meeting and working alongside countless agencies. I’m always amazed and inspired by the wonderful work you, our agency partners, do in the community every day! I love walking alongside you, seeing and hearing the difference that you make in thousands of lives throughout the Tampa Bay region.

From your indomitable passion and unwavering humor to your enduring perseverance, you make food relief fun and rewarding every day. Thank you in particular for your patience and understanding throughout the last several weeks of construction and transition. I appreciate every one of you and I look forward to what the future has for us all!

Food Drive Tips and Tricks

As a partner agency fighting hunger every day, there’s no need to tell you the importance of food drives. Food drives are invaluable in the process of collecting enough food to stock your pantry, however, if not done properly, they can be a source of endless stress, too much work, and not enough yield. For this reason, we want to give you a few tips and tricks on how to re-energize a staple part of your food program. We’ve listed some ideas below, and even if these don’t work for your particular agency, don’t forget that one of the most important aspects of any food drive is making it fun, creative, and educational!

- Promote your food drive via social media
- Create a theme for your food drive
  Ex: Souper Bowl, Summer Hunger, Holiday Helpings, Winter’s Coming, Buy One Give One, Protein Power, Meating the Need, Snack Attack, etc.
- Charge a “food admission” (canned item) to your next company, church, or social event
- Add a fun twist to spark people’s interest
  Ex: Advertise with the purpose of filling a vehicle or office
- Build a food structure with donated items
  Ex: Tower of tuna, pile of pasta, etc.
- Send out daily hunger facts to highlight the importance of food donations
- Set a goal for how much food you want to collect and track the progress via an unique measuring system such as ticker board or countdown clock
- Designate days of the week for certain foods you’d like to collect
  Ex: Macaroni Monday, Tuna Tuesday, etc.
- Wash Away Hunger by holding a car wash where the price of a wash is canned food
- Hold a Hunger Walk or Run where donors pledge cans instead of money
- Think of ways to make the food drive a contest or prize opportunity for participants
- Hold a raffle in which a canned item buys you a raffle ticket

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

Few foods are associated with summer as much as watermelons. Perhaps this is because watermelons are composed of 91.5% water, making it an ideal snack to keep you hydrated during the hot summer months. Besides hydration, watermelons boast many other health benefits including boosting brain power, relieving muscle soreness, and protecting against infection. So next time you set out on a picnic or trip to the beach, be sure to take along a delicious, refreshing, juicy watermelon.

DID YOU KNOW?

All parts of a watermelon can be eaten, even the rind, which actually contain a number of nutrients. However, due to the unappealing flavor, it is rarely eaten. In China though, the rind is often stir-fired, stewed, or picked before being eaten.
HIGHLIGHTS

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Congratulations to our agency partner Saint Vincent de Paul in Spring Hill who recently expanded their pantry facility! Volunteers, supporters, staff, and clients gathered on June 27th to celebrate the grand opening and reflect on the work they've done and the work that lies ahead. The beautiful addition will allow SVDp-Spring Hill the opportunity to expand their reach and serve even more in the community.

Great job SVDp! We are proud to partner with you as you continue to serve multitudes in the Hernando, Pasco, and Citrus areas!

AGENCY TIP:

Do you know what other agencies and resources are in your area? Have you met their leadership; do you know their distribution hours; could you work with them to collaborate or call them in a pinch?

Get to know other agencies, especially those in your area! Your fellow agencies are some of the best resources available. You can work together, share tips and tricks, and better serve your community through partnerships. To find out which agencies are nearby you, go on our website, www.feedingamericatampabay.org, and search under “Find a Pantry”. Or feel free to contact Nicole.

banana boxes

Help the food bank by bringing back banana boxes! Banana boxes are an integral part of our organization; we use them to sort, pack and distribute food. They are the best boxes for us because they are sturdy enough to hold pounds and pounds of cans and other heavy foods! In order to help keep our supply of banana boxes up, we need your help in bringing used ones back! Please bring as many as possible back to the warehouse.

REMINDER

Don’t forget to update Feeding America Tampa Bay if anything changes in regards to your agency. In the event that your agency has a change in authorized shoppers, contact info, location, or pantry hours, you must notify the food bank. Written documentation on agency letterhead can be dropped off or sent to Nicole via ntegge@feedingamericatampabay.org or fax.

Thank you for helping us keep our records up-to-date and accurate!

monthly agency meeting

RSVP today for the next monthly agency meeting on July 28th from 2:00 - 3:00pm.

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.