Giving more than food...

As partners in the food relief world, Feeding America Tampa Bay and our agencies work together every day to help meet the immediate needs of families struggling to put food on the table. Yet we also want to address the short and long-term health concerns of poverty and connect those in need with resources to help break the vicious cycle of food insecurity and poor health.

As on-the-ground hunger heroes, you come into contact with these vulnerable communities daily and have the opportunity to provide them with more than just food. You can provide individuals with information and education on topics ranging from eating smart to buying smart to cooking smart.

To make finding this information easier and more accessible, Feeding America, the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, and the National Dairy Council teamed up to develop a project and platform called the Healthy Food Bank Hub.

The Hub is designed to bridge conversations about hunger relief and good nutrition and provide information and resources necessary to connect the Feeding America network of 61,000 agencies with nutrition and health professionals. Together, we can not only fight hunger, but also promote health. The Healthy Food Bank Hub supports efforts to increase access to healthful foods and to promote nutrition and wellness. The Hub provides a platform to share information, strategies and tools while also showcasing innovative and promising practices that help connect efforts around hunger-relief, nutrition, and health.

To find out more information visit www.healthyfoodbankhub.feedingamerica.org

School is out for the summer, but hunger isn’t. This summer, Feeding America Tampa Bay wants to let kids be kids. Instead of worrying about hunger, they should be enjoying the simplicity of life as a child. As our partner in the community, help us spread the word about summer hunger and give people an avenue to help fight it with these calls to action!

**DONATE**
$5 provides a child with 35 meals. $34.29 feeds a child for the entire summer!

**HOST A KID-FRIENDLY FOOD DRIVE**
Items like canned goods with pop-tops (canned soups, canned spaghetti, canned tuna, canned fruits), microwavable meals (like mac n’ cheese), cereal, oatmeal, granola bars, shelf-stable juice boxes, crackers, fruit cups, applesauce, dried fruit snacks, and peanut butter and jelly

**SPREAD THE WORD**
On social media, use the #LetKidsBeKids hashtag, share your favorite kids meals, summer activities or even #TBT photos from your own childhood. And be sure to tag Feeding America Tampa Bay!

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?**

June is National Dairy Month. National Dairy Month is a great way to start the summer with nutrient-rich dairy foods. From calcium to potassium, dairy products like milk contain nine essential nutrients which help to better manage weight, reduce risk for high blood pressure, osteoporosis and certain cancers. Whether it’s protein to help build and repair the muscle tissue of active bodies or vitamin A to help maintain healthy skin, dairy products are a natural nutrient powerhouse. Those are just a few of the reasons that you should celebrate dairy not just in June, but all year long!

**FUN FACT:**
There are more than 2,000 varieties of cheese world-wide with the most commonly consumed being mozzarella.
With June comes the start of summer and the start of dreaded hurricane season. Is your agency prepared? Do you know what to do if a hurricane hits? Start developing a plan and procedures now so that your agency is ready if the situation arises. Think about who is going to lead the relief and how. Think about your supply of food. Hold a food drive or participate in our Premier Product Program to collect items most in need after a storm -- ready-to-eat meals (canned meats, canned soups, canned chili), snacks (granola bars, raisins, cereal, peanut butter, canned fruit) and bottled water.

Don't be caught off-guard!

**highlights**

1. May 15th was a big day for Feeding America Tampa Bay as we unveiled our new and improved partner agency shopping area! Thanks to the generous support of our friends at Winn-Dixie, we now have a beautiful, more efficient place for all of your shopping needs! The Winn-Dixie Charity Market will help distribute nearly 85,000 meals each week to YOU, our hunger-relief partners, which will end up in the homes of thousands in need!

Stay tuned to receive dates when shopping in the new area will begin.

2. Feeding America Tampa Bay launched a new and improved website in May. The new website was designed with the community in mind! It serves the person needing to find a food pantry for the first time, it serves the volunteer looking for new opportunities, it serves our donors looking for ways to give back, and it serves our agency partners who are on the front lines in the fight against hunger. We recommend that all of our agencies take advantage of the pantry locator feature. Use this updated section to recommend other nearby food relief organizations to the clients you serve. Also, get in touch with your neighboring agency partners and see if you can find ways to collaborate, cooperate, and connect to maximize your impact!

**agency tip**

With June comes the start of summer and the start of dreaded hurricane season. Is your agency prepared? Do you know what to do if a hurricane hits?

People from the local tourism industry gathered at Raymond James Stadium in May to partner with Feeding America Tampa Bay to make a difference in the lives of children across the community. Over 200 people arrived to help pack 3,000 backpacks of food for children who normally don’t have meals over the weekend or during the summer months. A special thanks to Visit Tampa Bay who helped make this event possible! Thanks to them, fewer children will go hungry.

**monthly agency meeting**

RSVP today for the next monthly agency meeting on June 22nd 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.

**meet Luis**

Luis Arocho brings almost 20 years of professional truck driving experience to his position as Feeding America Tampa Bay’s Transportation and Operations Manager. As such he is responsible for a myriad of tasks including routing our impressive fleet of 16 trucks, maintaining them along with other equipment, coordinating pickups and deliveries, and supervising our warehouse staff. Luis’s remarkable background extends beyond trucking. He’s actually a locksmith by trade and used to be responsible for bank vaults in his native Brooklyn, New York! When Luis isn’t working, you’ll find him outdoors as he loves camping, fishing, and fixing up his property. If anyone has any questions for Luis, please feel free to reach out to him at larocho@feedingamericatampabay.org.