Thank you to the agencies who attended Feeding America Tampa Bay’s 3rd annual Agency Conference earlier this month! We appreciate everyone that was able to come and be a part of this fantastic event. We covered various topics on how agencies can empower, enhance, and energize your food programs through grant writing, volunteer engagement, and social media presence. It was rewarding and inspiring to see everyone together and hear about the fantastic work you all are doing in the community to help fight hunger!

We want to extend a special shout out to WellCare and Staywell for sponsoring the conference as well as the speakers who graciously agreed to be a part of the event. If your agency was unable to attend, or if you would like more information about connecting with a speaker from the event, please see the contact info below.

Food Insecurity: A Health Perspective
Dr. Lauri Wright (lwright10@health.usf.edu)

The Hunger Dialogue: Using Storytelling to Raise Awareness and Promote your Agency
Hunter Taylor (htaylor@chappellroberts.com)
Patrick Owings (powings@chappellroberts.com)

Keys to Winning Grants
Jule Colvin (jule@pathwaystogrowth.us)

Engaging Volunteers: How to Recruit, Cultivate, and Keep Them
Liz Wooten Reschke (liz@connectformore.com)

Hunger in America Study
Hunger in America is the most comprehensive examination of hunger in the United States. Conducted every four years since 1993, the study examines the critical role that Feeding America member food banks and their partner agencies play in supporting people facing hunger across the nation. Thank you to all programs that enabled us to collect data for the study which will be woven into national and local stories about people in need of food.

Among the key findings for the Tampa Bay area are:

- 75% of clients served fall at or below the 100% poverty level
- 67% choose between paying for food and medicine
- 94% of children served qualify for free or reduced lunch
- 45% reported income less than $10,000 per year
- 94% of our clients either own or rent a home
- As many as 250,000 children in our area suffer from hunger
- There are more than 160,000 hungry seniors in Tampa Bay

Together, with your agency’s help, Feeding America Tampa Bay is able to serve the 700,000 hungry people in the community! We appreciate all of our agencies and the dedication, commitment, and hard work that goes into supporting the hungry. We thank and commend you...because no one should go hungry.

A summary of the study can be found at FeedingAmericaTampaBay.org on the Hunger Realities page.

CALENDAR
REMINDER

All Feeding America Tampa Bay facilities will be closed May 25th in observance of Memorial 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?

Many experts insist apples are more effective at waking you up in the morning than coffee! The reason why is that apples contain natural sugars and carbohydrates providing you with the energy boost you need in the morning. Unlike coffee, the fiber found in apples will sustain that energy in the body and prevent a caffeine or sugar high. So even if you can’t part with your craved cup of coffee in the morning, make sure, as the saying goes, to eat an apple a day as they contain no fat, sodium, or cholesterol and will bolster your health keeping the doctor away.

The Pilgrims planted the first apple trees in North America. In colonial times, these apples were called “winter bananas” or “melt-in-the-mouth.”
Keep your refrigerators running more efficiently with these two tips. First off, check to make sure that the refrigerator door seals are not losing air. Close the refrigerator door on a dollar bill. If the dollar bill slides down or flutters, you’ve got an air leak. Consider replacing the plastic or rubber door seal to prevent your refrigerator from working to cool the whole room! Secondly, make an effort to clean and vacuum behind and underneath your refrigerator. Getting to these hard-to-reach areas is not always easy, but dirt and dust build up in these areas collecting on condenser coils. The dirty coils cause the refrigerator to have longer cooling cycles meaning that it expends more energy cooling the contents.

Following these two easy steps will save you money on your electricity bills and keep your refrigerators in top condition!

Nonprofit Leadership Center

Feeding America Tampa Bay was honored to have two representatives from the Nonprofit Leadership Center of Tampa Bay speak at our past agency conference. The Center is Tampa Bay’s leader in nonprofit education. Their mission is to teach nonprofits the skills to run their businesses through affordable training, coaching, and online resources. They deliver a full range of options to meet your nonprofit training needs.


To find out more information about the Nonprofit Leadership Center and see how they can help grow your organization, visit www.nonprofitleadershipcenter.com.

meet Rubin

Some of you have had the pleasure of meeting and working with Rubin Fleurimond. Rubin is one of FATB’s warehouse associates and specializes in helping agencies process orders, checkout, and load-up their vehicles. Originally from Fort Lauderdale, Rubin moved to Tampa and began working security at Adventure Island and Busch Gardens Theme Parks before he choose to devote his talent to the nonprofit field. We are glad he’s come on board as anyone that has spent any time with him knows how positive and pleasant he is. So next time, you’re in the warehouse, don’t forget to take a moment and say hi to Rubin as his favorite aspects of the job is getting to know all of our agencies!

Highlights

1. Every year, on the second Saturday of May, letter carriers in more than 10,000 cities and towns across America work to help stamp out hunger in the largest one-day food drive in the nation. Postal employees, food banks, volunteers, and agencies alike work together to collect non-perishable food donations left by mailboxes and post offices and deliver them to those most in need. Since its conception over 20 years ago, the drive has collected over 1 billion pounds of food for our hungry neighbors across the US. Last year, over 1.5 million pounds of food was collected in Hillsborough county alone. We at Feeding America Tampa Bay would like to thank everyone involved in this massive effort especially all postal employees who are making a huge difference, one mailbox at a time.

2. Congratulations to Kaye Prox Food Bank on their 2nd Annual 5k Hunger Run! Kaye Prox Food Bank provides food to over 200 needy people each week in the Town ‘n Country, Westchase, Citrus Park, and Northdale areas. In preparation for the summer months, the agency held the race to collect food and raise awareness for the issue of hunger in the community. The run was a huge success with over 450 registered runners contributing a total of $6,495 to the pantry and 1,800 lbs. of food! Great job Kaye Prox with a well-organized, well-run, and fun event! We are thrilled to see our partners making such important strides in the community one step at a time.

Agency Tip:

Keep your refrigerators running more efficiently with these two tips. First off, check to make sure that the refrigerator door seals are not losing air. Close the refrigerator door on a dollar bill. If the dollar bill slides down or flutters, you’ve got an air leak. Consider replacing the plastic or rubber door seal to prevent your refrigerator from working to cool the whole room! Secondly, make an effort to clean and vacuum behind and underneath your refrigerator. Getting to these hard-to-reach areas is not always easy, but dirt and dust build up in these areas collecting on condenser coils. The dirty coils cause the refrigerator to have longer cooling cycles meaning that it expends more energy cooling the contents.

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