**Be Food Forward**

Everything Feeding Tampa Bay does revolves around our shared belief that no one should go hungry and, together, we can create a hunger-free Tampa Bay. With the announcement in September of our new strategic plan, *Be Food Forward*, we outlined some of the ways that we are working to realize this goal. For our agency partners, we are endeavoring to provide more training classes, more resources, and more ideas to arm you with the tools you need to serve more people in need. We are committed to empowering all of you to grow and strengthen your programs.

In order to fully live into the concept of *Be Food Forward* over the next three years, we need your help. We ask our agency partners to join the effort to engage and mobilize the community around the issue of hunger. You can help in this aspect by educating the community about food insecurity and the partnership you have with Feeding Tampa Bay. You can also help by adapting and growing with us. As food sources change and perishable items are now the majority of the food we are moving into the community, we need to think of ways we can change our food programs to accommodate this change, ultimately to better serve our clients and increase the health of food insecure individuals. We need to think of how we can make our programs more “user-friendly”, break down barriers to entry, and how we can impact more people.

Most importantly, let’s all work together to spread the word about hunger in the community and create a call to action for others to support us. If we stand united in our messaging, our message becomes stronger and impacts more people, which results in fewer people going hungry.

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**ONLINE ORDERING TIPS AND REMINDERS**

Do you need an online ordering refresher training class? Or do you have a new authorized shopper placing orders? Or are you a Suncoast agency that would like to learn more about how, with only a few clicks, your agency can order product fast, efficiently, and easily? If so, please attend one of the next online ordering training classes taking place at the Tampa warehouse on:

- **Friday, November 6th** 9:00 - 10:30am
- **Thursday, November 12th** 1:30 - 3:00pm
- **Tuesday, November 17th** 10:30am - Noon

These training sessions are both for agencies currently placing online orders and those who are just starting. We’ll cover all you need to know on how to access and order from our available inventory. RSVP with Nicole today to reserve your spot!

Below are some helpful online ordering reminders and tips:

- Agencies can place up to two online orders per week. Both orders must be for different days of the week.
- Online orders must be placed two full business days in advance.
- For an order to be processed, product must be placed in your shopping cart. Simply reserving an appointment time without selecting any items will not reserve an appointment time for your agency.
- Items designated as “AAP” are excess purchase product items our inventory team has put online. These products are not priced at $0.18/pound as they have not been donated to us, but rather purchased by us.
- Orders cannot be modified once they are placed and must be accepted in full at the time of pickup.
- In the event that your agency does not find any needed items via online ordering, please do not place an order, but rather call our main office to schedule a sharing floor appointment only.

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**FEEDING TAMPA BAY WISHES YOU A HAPPY THANKSGIVING!**

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 ntgege@feedingamericatampabay.org

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

Although they are soft and creamy enough to be put in pies and called “dessert”, sweet potatoes are also a surprisingly nutritious vegetable. And what better time to load up on the copious health benefits of sweet potatoes than around the holidays. (Sweet potatoes fat-free, cholesterol-free, and are one of the best sources of vitamin A – one sweet potato contains more than 100% of the daily recommended vitamin A intake!) Sweet potatoes are roots, unlike regular potatoes which are tubers (underground stems). They come in a variety of colors, with orange being the most popular, but even in yellow, pink, and purple varieties!

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**FUN FACT:**

George Washington Carver, a scientist in the early 20th century, developed 118 products from sweet potatoes including glue for postage stamps and starch for sizing cotton fabrics.
Feeding Tampa Bay is excited to announce the DISH (Directly Impacting Senior Health) Program, aimed at helping seniors in need. With seniors making up nearly 20% of the hungry population in our area, a program to address this need was necessary. A critical element of the new DISH Program is its ability to deliver fresh, healthy food to seniors, with a goal to increase health and decrease medical bills.

The first initiative that falls under the DISH Program kicked off on October 17th in partnership with Meals on Wheels of Tampa, called Produce on Wheels! Over 40 volunteers participated in the launch by packing produce in the Feeding Tampa Bay warehouse. Each healthy bag was filled with various produce items including oranges, cucumbers, bell peppers, bananas, salad dressings, and more! After packing 675 bags of this nutritious produce, more volunteers, under the guidance of Meals on Wheels of Tampa, delivered the bags to homebound clients.

Feeding Tampa Bay loves hearing ideas and suggestions you have! That’s why we’ve started monthly agency meetings. These meetings are a great opportunity for you to network with your fellow agencies, share tips, express concerns, and communicate directly with our Executive Director, Thomas Mantz. Don’t miss out! RSVP with Nicole for our next monthly agency meeting on November 12th from 8:30-9:30 at the Tampa Warehouse.

**From Our Table to Yours**

**Family Food Distribution**

Please let your clients know!

**Saturday, December 12, 2015**

**9:00 am - 1:00 pm**

The event will take place at Feeding Tampa Bay in the Tampa Distribution Center

**Feeding Tampa Bay**

4702 Transport Drive

Building 6

Tampa, FL 33605

813.254.1190 | FeedingTampaBay.org

**agency tip**

If your agency wants to expand your refrigerator space but finding the cost of a walk-in unit too expensive? Consider investing in an insulated cargo container! These refrigerated shipping containers are great options for pantries that want to increase pantry space without having the means to construct a standard walk-in cooler. Not only are they a cheaper option, but they are movable providing your agency with even more flexibility.

**monthly agency meeting**

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**meet Kathy**

As Director of Finance, HR, and Administration, Kathy Whetsell is responsible for a majority of the behind-the-scenes action that keeps Feeding Tampa Bay running. As a Feeding Tampa Bay team member for three years now, Kathy draws from her extensive experience in the state university system where she devoted 24 years accruing the professional skills so important to her role at FTB. After leaving the University of South Florida, she spent four years working for a foster care and adoption agency where she got firsthand knowledge of the challenges and triumphs many you, our agencies, face. Kathy’s favorite part about her role now is that it allows her to use her finance and management skills to maximize the impact that FTB can have in the community!