Feeding Tampa Bay has a variety of direct distribution programs where the food bank distributes food directly to those in need. One of these programs is our mobile pantry program. We’ve found that our mobile pantry program is very effective in helping the community because it helps eliminate the transportation barrier those in need face when trying to access nutritious food. Because the program is completely mobile, we’re able to target the areas most in need – usually food deserts or food swamps without access to traditional food pantries. We load up one of our trucks with 8,000-10,000 pounds of nutritious food including fresh fruits and vegetables, frozen meats, dairy products, fruit juices, and more. We’ll go to the area in need and distribute 30-40 lb. boxes of food to an average of 300 families within just two hours! The places that we go to vary – oftentimes we go to YMCAs, community centers, parks, parking lots, and sometimes even agency partners. If you’d like more information on how your agency can get involved with this program, please contact Clarissa Rain at crain@feedingtampabay.org.

In 2015, Feeding Tampa Bay held over 100 mobile pantries distributing 1.25 million meals to the community! We impacted over 30,000 households composed of 75,000 individuals and 30,000 children.

Feeding Tampa Bay’s Mobile Pantries

AGENCY REMINDER: ONLINE ORDERING

All online orders must be placed two full business days in advance for the order to be processed. If you have any questions regarding online ordering, please contact Nicole or Rakesha.

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?

Did you know that Feeding Tampa Bay is a member of the Florida Association of Food Banks (FAFB)?

The FAFB is a charitable organization that strives to end hunger in Florida by supporting 13 regional Feeding America affiliated food banks throughout the state. As a leader in the fight against hunger in Florida, some of the main goals of the organization include promoting awareness of hunger in Florida, acquiring food and financial donations for its members, as well as working with state legislators to garner additional support to fight hunger.

Fun Fact: FAFB and its 13 members serve all 67 Florida counties through more than 2,500 regional distribution centers and local food pantries and programs!

JustServe

JustServe is a website that matches faith, nonprofit, community and governmental organizations that need volunteers with volunteers willing to help. Anyone can add a project and adding a project is fool-proof. Just follow the step-by-step process and specify a few details – is the project ongoing or onetime; when and where is the project; what are the duties of the project; etc.

Once a project is created, volunteers can search for it and sign-up. They can search by category, zip code, or key words. The description of the project will appear and volunteers can sign-up, share the opportunity, or request more info. This website is great because it’s never been easier to connect those needing help with those wanting to help. So give it a try - go on the website, follow the step-by-step instructions and watch how your agency can link up with volunteers wanting to help in the fight against hunger.

Find More Volunteers to Help With Your Program

Does your agency have a problem finding consistent volunteers? Or would your agency like an influx of volunteers for a one-time special event? Or perhaps you need volunteers with specific skills or even an intern? Check out JustServe.org!
The next time you go to a Lightning game, make sure to cheer extra loud when the Bolts score. On March 10th, the Tampa Bay Lightning and The Mosaic Company announced the extension of the ‘Goals for Food’ program through the 2016-17 season, including the playoffs! The Goals for Food program benefits Feeding Tampa Bay and other local food bank partners. The program links the success of the Lightning on the ice to such a critical need off the ice -- feeding food insecure families across the Tampa Bay region. For every goal the Lightning score, Mosaic donates $500 to Feeding Tampa Bay and other regional food bank partners; for every hat trick, $5000! Since the program’s inception in 2013, Mosaic has donated 2.5 million meals for our hungry neighbors!

For those of you that receive deliveries from Feeding Tampa Bay, there’s a good chance that you’ve met Luis. Luis Ramos is one of Feeding Tampa Bay’s truck drivers. As a member of our transportation team, Luis works tirelessly to ensure we can pickup as many food donations as possible and also deliver as much food as possible. Luis has been driving trucks for several years and is familiar with picking up from all different types of vendors including some of our largest ones like farms and wholesale stores. Before moving to Florida six years ago, Luis lived in NYC where he was actually born and raised! When Luis isn’t working, some of his favorite things to do include bar-be-queuing, fishing, relaxing, and solving jigsaw puzzles.

Congratulations to the Shepherd Center on the purchase of their new 33,000 sq. ft. building! Thanks to the generosity of many donors and USAmeri Bank, this agency raised enough funds in their capital campaign to purchase a new home for their mission. The new building, located at 304 South Pinellas Avenue in Tarpon Springs, will house their food pantry, thrift store, and community service outreach programs. This new facility will enhance their ability to service the hundreds of families they currently serve every month.

As hunger heroes, we all understand the challenges low-income seniors in our community face. All too often, seniors are forced to make hard decisions about paying for food vs. medical care. Help those seniors you serve not only with food relief but by providing them information that may make their medical worries lessen.

Tell them about SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders), a program that helps guide seniors and the disabled through the complexities of Medicare, long-term-care insurance, and prescription assistance programs. It is a free service of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, operated locally through the Senior Connection Center. SHINE provides free and unbiased Medicare information and counseling. Services are free and confidential.

For more information or to learn how you can volunteer, please call the Elder Helpline toll-free at 1-800-96-ELDER (1-800-963-5337) or visit www.FloridaSHINE.org.