Agency Membership Letter

Thank you for your partnership with Feeding Tampa Bay. Over the last three years, Feeding Tampa Bay, and you – our partners, have dramatically increased the amount of food delivered to our community. In fact, we’ve almost doubled the number of meals provided! As a result of partnering with Feeding Tampa Bay, partner agencies are able to provide more food to our community at a lower cost and have access to a wider variety of items and support. Feeding Tampa Bay provides training and education opportunities including food safety classes, nutrition education series, agency conferences, and on-site monitoring, to name a few. Agency networking and support opportunities are also available through Feeding Tampa Bay’s Agency Relations department.

An important component of the operational efficiency and continuation of Feeding Tampa Bay’s services is the yearly agency payment. It will help us to defray some of the continual costs associated with the sourcing, transportation, maintenance, equipment, and food handling costs incurred with the distribution of food to our agency partners. As we continue to grow our capacity and deliver more meals into the community the cost to acquire, store, and move food also grows. In this way, agencies help “share” some of the food bank’s expenses.

For the last two years Feeding Tampa Bay has waived the yearly agency payment in an effort to provide financial assistance to all. In addition, the food bank has drastically increased the amount of food provided to agencies while lowering shared maintenance fees to a record low. Due to the factors listed, we will be reinstating the yearly agency payment. Please be aware that the yearly agency payment of $100 is due by March 1st.

If you have any questions or want to make special arrangements for payment, please contact Nicole Tegge in the Agency Relations Department at 813-690-8233. Feeding Tampa Bay thanks you in advance for your support and efforts in feeding the hungry in the community. We appreciate, value, and are proud of our partnership with each of you! The fight against hunger is not an easy task and it’s one that can only be done through the collective efforts of many organizations. Between the efforts of all of us, more people in West Central Florida are being fed.

Heart to Heart

February is National Heart Month, a national effort to prevent 1 million heart attacks by 2017. Heart disease is the leading cause of death in men and women in the United States and every year, 1 in 4 deaths is caused because of it. While heart disease does not discriminate, African American men are at the highest risk.

The good news? Heart disease can often be prevented when people make healthy food choices. Food banks, agencies, health professionals, and families can work together to create opportunities for people to make healthier choices. Make a difference in your community by spreading the word to those you serve about strategies for preventing heart disease and encourage people to live heart healthy lives.

Encourage your clients to get their blood pressure checked. Uncontrolled blood pressure is the leading cause of heart disease and stroke.

Encourage your clients to eat heart healthy by eating foods low in sodium (salt). To lower the amount of salt in your diet, always choose fresh foods over processed, increase the amount of fruits and vegetables when possible, and always compare food labels to find those with less sodium. Instead of using salt to flavor food try herbs, garlic, onions, peppers, lemons, limes, or ginger.

Encourage your clients to stay active and watch their weight. Plan a community event around your next pantry giveaway. Set up a field day where clients can stay active by playing frisbee, tossing a football, walking, and more.

Get the word out to clients about the seriousness of heart disease and what they can do to stay healthy.

For more information, please come to our next Feed and Lead Series Nutrition Class, Your Health Matters.
meet Megan

Megan joined the Feeding Tampa Bay team six months ago as the Volunteer Services Manager and Food Drives Coordinator. She is responsible for managing all aspects that give volunteers a positive experience at the food bank including educating them about Feeding Tampa Bay’s mission and encouraging them to become life-long agents of change in our community. To that goal, she brings over two and a half years of experience as a professional fundraiser and campaign manager on behalf of World Vision where she advocated for children and families around the world to receive clean water, nutritious food, health care, education, and sustainable economic opportunities. Amazingly, she had the opportunity to meet the little boy in Rwanda that she sponsors every month. This experience inspired her to pursue a life of generosity and service. It is for this reason that Megan loves working at an organization that is daily making a difference in the lives of individuals across Tampa Bay.

HIGHLIGHTS

1. Congratulations to one of our agency partners, Lake Panasoffkee United Methodist Church, on the award of a $5,000 grant from United Way. This food pantry located in Sumter county serves over 100 families a month. With the addition of these funds, this agency will be able to access more food for their community better serving those in need.

2. January was an exciting month for the children at one of our agency partners, Tampa Bay Community and Family (doing business as Bethesda Ministries). This agency implemented a new, ongoing program that teaches 160 children how to prepare healthy menus and address the problem of food insecurity in their families. Every two weeks, the children will be taught the importance of eating healthy fruits and vegetables and the effects food has on the body. After the lesson, the children have the opportunity to pack their own meals that will be taken home on Friday to combat weekend hunger. This innovative program is a result of a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. grant the agency received at the end of 2015.

AGENCY TIP

Studies show that the clients we serve not only need food assistance but also additional help. According to our recent Hunger in America research study, 67% of those Feeding Tampa Bay and our partner agencies serve choose between paying for food and medicine. 75% choose between paying for food and utilities. And 63% choose between paying for food and rent. You can help by creating a resource list for your clients of other organizations in your area that service these and other needs. Have a master resource list available of where they can go in your area for help with rent assistance, legal advice, health insurance, tax preparation, and more.

3. Feeding Tampa Bay works with an abundance of great organizations in the community. One such example is We Care Food Pantry located in Citrus county. In 2015 alone, We Care distributed over 3 million pounds of food — all with the comparatively very small budget of only $136,000! The pantry is run solely through donations and grants. At the end of last year, Walmart awarded this organization a grant to purchase the third of three trucks used to pick up food. Great job We Care Food Pantry as you continue to change the lives of Citrus county families!

SAVE THE DATE! Feed and Lead Series

March is National Nutrition Month and in order to focus attention on the importance of making healthy food choices and developing sound eating habits, Feeding Tampa Bay will be hosting the third class of our nutrition education series, Your Health Matters. Presented by Dr. Lauri Wright, this class is a great opportunity to learn more about nutrition and how you can improve the diets and eating habits of those you serve.

Tuesday, March 15th, 2016   |   12:00-1:30pm
Lunch will be provided

For more information or to reserve your seat, email Nicole at ntegge@feedingtampabay.org.