New Year, new opportunities

Now that 2016 is over and the New Year is here, we have many things to reflect upon and plans to make in order to make 2017 great! Feeding Tampa Bay would like to thank all the organizations and partnerships that have made a difference in the lives of all those in need in our community.

This past holiday season was a busy time for many of you and might have brought in an increase in volunteers and donations to your organization, but as many of you know food insecurity is a problem that is 24-7-365. Food insecurity affects many of our clients after the holidays, as there are less resources available to them, so it’s our job to continue offering food relief aid to those in need.

In the New Year, it is important to look into new resources that will help your agency during this upcoming year. Potential areas of focus include:

- Volunteer recruitment
- Fundraising opportunities
- Networking with other agencies
- Grant writing
- Incorporating healthy eating nudges at your agency
- Building your agency capacity

A Message from Transportation

Feeding Tampa Bay would like to thank all of our agencies for your patience and understanding. We are currently working on methods to prevent delays and improve our arrival times, as we have a few drivers that are still learning their routes.

We would also like to congratulate our drivers Mario Martinez and Gerald Johnson on their 1-year anniversary working for Feeding Tampa Bay! We are also announcing driver Chris Okon’s departure and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

NEW RESOURCE - WASTE NO FOOD

A new food recovery app is now available in the Tampa Bay area. Waste No Food provides a web-based marketplace for farms, restaurants, and grocery stores to post their excess food directly on an app, allowing vetted aid-group organizations like food pantries and homeless shelters to look for donations that are in their location. The organizations that receive the donated product would be responsible for all transportation and food handling. Download the “Waste No Food Tampa Bay” app if you haven’t already! For more information, please visit their website: http://wastenofood.org/

REMINDEERS

Happy New Year from Feeding Tampa Bay!

Boxes

Please remember to bring back your banana boxes and pallets to Feeding Tampa Bay. These are important items that will help the food bank get food out to agency partners and clients.

DID YOU KNOW?

One of the vegetables that is frequently available for your pantry to distribute is bell peppers! Bell Peppers are a great source of Vitamins C and B6 and come in a variety of colors like green, red, yellow and orange. According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Vitamin B6 is good for your metabolism and nervous system health and Vitamin C is an antioxidant and is good for your bone, cartilage and blood vessel health.

Bell Peppers need to be stored in a refrigerated space and can be frozen to extend their lifespan. During your pantry’s distribution give your clients helpful tips on storing their produce, especially on days when your pantry gets a lot of a particular fruit or vegetable. A helpful tip for freezing bell peppers is to cut the bell peppers in half, remove the seeds and white membranes from the inside, and then cut them into strips, or squares. Place the cut bell peppers into a freezer bag or container and store them away in the freezer to use for future meals.
meet Kelly

Kelly Hall is Feeding Tampa Bay’s new Agency Relations Manager! Kelly brings with her nearly 4 years of experience from working at the St. Louis Area Foodbank in St. Louis, MO as their Agency Relations Coordinator. Kelly is excited to be working at Feeding Tampa Bay and will be the new point of contact for you. Kelly is committed in supporting our mission in the fight against hunger. She is here to help our agencies, so should you have any questions or concerns, please contact her directly at 813.254.1190 ext 201 or khall@feedingtampabay.org.

From Our Table To Yours

Feeding Tampa Bay’s From Our Table to Yours mobile pantry distribution was a huge success! We served 2,500 families with the help of our hard working volunteers and generous sponsors: T. Rowe Price, Nationwide Title Clearing, True Lemon, Publix, and BBQ to the Rescue! Feeding Tampa Bay would also like to thank our agencies for helping distribute flyers and spread the word!

Family Night

Feeding Tampa Bay hosted its monthly Family Night on December 15th. Volunteers sorted through 14,000 pounds of food, enough to provide nearly 12,000 meals for our community! Family Night at Feeding Tampa Bay permits families of all ages to visit our warehouse in order to volunteer together and learn about food insecurity. If you or someone you know is interested in attending, please visit our website and click on the volunteer button to sign up.

Your Finance Matters

Feeding Tampa Bay continues to facilitate the Feed and Lead Series. December’s session, titled Your Finance Matters, taught financial tricks to save money without compromising the ability to eat healthy. If you missed this class, don’t worry because different educational sessions are held every month! Please check your email and look for flyers advertising upcoming session topics.

Agency Tip

Don’t put off cleaning your site after a food distribution. Cleaning your site directly after a food distribution helps eliminate the potential for cross contamination. Place all food that was not distributed back in its designated storage space and remember to wipe down any table and or surface that was used.

If your pantry finds itself struggling to find storage space for food, remember that you can contact your fellow partner agencies and ask them if they have extra storage space. It’s better to serve your community by building partnerships and networking. To find out which agencies are nearby, go to our website, feedingtampabay.org, and search your zip code under the “FIND FOOD” tab, or feel free to contact Feeding Tampa Bay for more information.

St. Petersburg Bowl - Fill the Bowl

As part of the St. Petersburg Bowl’s initiative to give back to the community, the Mississippi State and Miami (OH) football teams participated in Fill the Bowl, a program that provide meals for children in need. In only 15 minutes the two teams filled 2750 bags with food to give to the children over the holiday break who would otherwise go without.

The Mosaic Company

For the fifth consecutive year, The Mosaic Company has partnered with Feeding Tampa Bay to ensure that over 700 students at Gibsonton Elementary School don’t leave for the holiday break empty handed! The Mosaic Company donated, packed, and delivered meals to the children and their families to help the continued effort to fight hunger in our community.