New Year, new opportunities
In an effort to accomplish our mission to fight food insecurity in our community, Feeding Tampa Bay is ardently committed to our strategic plan to Be Food Forward! Our key initiatives are to:

- Engage and mobilize the public and our partnership community
- Innovate and optimize capacity to facilitate growth
- Create healthier outcomes for the individuals and families we serve

We want to continue to empower our agency partners with resources and tools to serve more people in need. Feeding Tampa Bay has introduced many resources and programs to realize this goal.

Resources available to our agencies include:

- Classes like Hunger 101 and Feed & Lead that address food insecurity, nutrition & health, budgeting, food safety, and volunteer management. Keep an eye out for information on upcoming classes.

- Agency Empowered Retail Program (AERP) which facilitates the procurement and transportation of food donations from retail stores directly through our agency partners. We work to connect agencies with stores in their area to pick up product on a weekly basis to help provide more food and household items to clients in need.

- Produce Distribution - Feeding Tampa Bay continues to encourage our agency partners to distribute more perishable items like produce into your communities. In addition to picking up bulk produce, some of our agencies this year will be participating in a new program called From Farm to Fork that will enable them to increase the amount of produce they distribute to the community.

- Agency Transportation Capacity Initiative - an effort to provide more transportation resources to our agencies. We notify agencies of opportunities to increase their ability to pick up more product for their clients. We want to provide agencies the chance to expand their capacity through bigger and better vehicles to help them serve those in need.

Feeding Tampa Bay encourages its agency partners to continuously check your emails for any updates and to receive more information regarding other potential opportunities in the future. Feeding Tampa Bay thanks you for your commitment to feeding the hungry in the community!

AGENCY MEMBERSHIP FEE
The annual Agency Partner Membership fee will be billed to your agency account.

Your membership payment is due by March 31, 2017. If you need a copy of your invoice or have any questions about the fee, please contact Rakesha Brown at 813.254.1190 ext. 204 or rbrown@feedingtampabay.org.

REMINDERS
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.

Submit your success story!
We love hearing about your food programs and achievements! Contact Jessenya Ramirez at jramirez@feedingtampabay.org to share the story of how your agency is working to build capacity and serve the community.

DID YOU KNOW?
Did you know that kale has more Vitamin C than an orange? The nutritional value of the greens you find in your salad goes up as the leaves get darker. Romaine, butterhead, spinach and kale are a great source of vitamin K and A. Vitamin K is vital in helping blood clots and great at preventing excessive bleeding. Vitamin A is good for your immune system and bone health.

Dress your salads lightly or try making your own reduced-fat versions of dressings to create a healthier salad.

Try this Honey Mustard Dressing! In a small bowl mix ½ cup of low-fat plain yogurt, 1-2 tablespoons of honey, 1-2 tablespoons of lemon juice, and 2-3 teaspoons of mustard until smooth.

To season, add a pinch of salt and pepper to taste. Cover and chill for 30 minutes before serving.
meet Liz

Feeding Tampa Bay is lucky to have Elizabeth “Liz” Tente on our team! Liz serves as the Controller in our Finance Department. Liz transitioned from a volunteer position that helped us with financials, and has been officially with us for eight months. Liz is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and came to Feeding Tampa Bay with an abundance of experience in investments after working at MetLife. Liz loves that her job enables her to interact with all the departments at Feeding Tampa Bay in one manner or another. When Liz isn’t working she enjoys spending her free time cooking, as food is definitely one of her passions. Liz is married and has two little girls. She also recently underwent an incredible experience as a surrogate for a couple who lives in Europe.

Highlights

1. Helping Hands
   Congratulations to our agency partner, Helping Hands from Countryside Cares in Clearwater, who was able to purchase their first refrigerated truck with the donations from their church! This will allow them to pick up more perishable product including produce to provide to their clients.

2. ForkLifters - Monthly Giving
   Have you seen the new giant forklift decal on wall on your way to the Winn Dixie Charity Market? The names on display are in honor of the donors that support Feeding Tampa Bay with a monthly donation. ForkLifters is Feeding Tampa Bay’s monthly giving program that ensures we are able to supply enough food to our agency partners and food insecure neighbors.

   To learn more about becoming a ForkLifter, please visit: FeedingTampaBay.org/ForkLifters

Agency Tip:

Repackaging Produce

There might be times in your pantry when you get large sacks of onions or potatoes. These large sacks might come in a size that is much too large for small families and single clients, thus, leading to the potential waste of produce. Your pantry might find it useful to open up these large sacks and portion them accordingly in smaller plastic bags. Just remember to follow food safety guidelines by wear gloves when handling and repacking produce, keeping bags off produce the floor, and keeping your storage areas at the correct temperatures.

Your Coupons Matter

We held the January class for our Feed and Lead series, “Your Coupons Matter”. This session provided tips on how to begin couponing to help you and your pantry save money! Feeding Tampa Bay thanks our guest speaker, Lee Schielka from Bay Chapel Food Pantry, for sharing his knowledge on couponing! If you missed this class, don’t worry! Different educational sessions are held every month! Please check your email and look for flyers advertising upcoming session topics.

Lunch is provided at all of the sessions and you have a great opportunity to grow your pantry as well as network with other agency partners and Feeding Tampa Bay staff.

For more information or to RSVP, please email Karen Serrano Arce: kserranoarce@feedingtampabay.org

New Resource - Waste No Food

HootSuite is a website that will enable you to manage all your social media platforms in one web-based dashboard. This great resource has the capability to schedule timed posts on all platforms and offers a custom built-in analytics system. Keeping track of your agency’s social media posts can help bring awareness to your organization.

For more information, visit Hootsuite.com