Mobile Pantry Drops

Providing fresh fruits and vegetables to those in need in our community can make a huge impact on health. Often times, families struggle to make ends meet and, as a result, turn to less expensive and less healthy food choices. The Mobile Pantry Drop Program through Feeding Tampa Bay is a way for partner agencies that may lack storage space to serve a variety of fresh product to clients. Providing various types of produce and other food items in a Mobile Pantry Drop will eliminate a potential barrier to accessing healthy food.

In a Mobile Pantry Drop, Feeding Tampa Bay will take a truckload of food to the partner agency prior to the start of the food distribution. A Mobile Pantry Drop is designed to feed 300 to 400 people. Feeding Tampa Bay staff will assist in training an agency to run their mobile distribution.

For more information on this distribution program, please contact Kelly Hall at (813) 254-1190 ext 201 or khall@feedingtampabay.org.

REMININDERS

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.

Spread the word!
Grab a handful of FTB Mobile Pantry flyers that are placed next to the Agency Check Out window and hand them out to clients at your next distribution. Also, look for emails about mobile pantries that may be coming to your area.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that blueberries are believed to contain the highest antioxidant capacity of all commonly consumed fruits and vegetables? Blueberries have so many nutritional benefits, that some even consider it a superfood. Blueberries are great for lowering blood pressure. In fact, they are great for heart and brain health. Blueberries have anthocyanins and flavonoids that are associated with the prevention of heart disease and cancer. They are a great source of vitamin K1, C, and manganese.

Eat blueberries fresh or as a frozen snack, add blueberries to your salads, cereals, oatmeal, and pancake batter!

AGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION FORM

If you have yet to submit your updated 2017 agency information, please take a few minutes to visit https://form.jotform.com/70308174563960 in order to update your contact information. This link was also sent out via email. Printed copies of the form are also available next to the Agency Check Out window at Feeding Tampa Bay to allow you to fill it out while you check out after a shopping appointment.
**meet Bob**

Feeding Tampa Bay is lucky to have Robert “Bob” Emerick as our AmeriCorp VISTA Inventory Specialist. Bob came to the organization as a volunteer, but due to his incredible expertise and skill set, he was asked to join the team. Bob enjoys his position because it allows him to be part of a team that is always willing to support each other and lend a helping hand when needed. Bob comes from a very long and diverse work background that includes managing an apartment complex, commercial property, working as a printing estimator, and as a programmer for mainframe computers to name a few. Some fun facts about Bob include his collection of 50 books personally signed by authors and he’s had a Walt Disney World Annual Pass since 1995!

**HIGHLIGHTS**

1. **Kingdom Kids of Tampa Bay**
   Feeding Tampa Bay is honored to announce that Bonnie James of Kingdom Kids of Tampa Bay, Inc. received the Lightning Community Hero award! In the last six years, Kingdom Kids has provided more than 400,000 meals to our community! In addition to this, Bonnie has fostered more than 100 children and provides thousands of snacks for schools in Hillsborough County. The Community Hero award highlights individuals that have made a significant impact on the community, and Bonnie could not have been a more deserving candidate.

2. **Community Food Pantry - Mobile Pantry Drop**
   Feeding Tampa Bay is proud to showcase Community Food Pantry at Village Presbyterian in Tampa for their successful Mobile Pantry Drop distribution! They provided food to 360 food insecure households with the help of over 50 volunteers.

3. **Your Communication Matters**
   The March class for our Feed and Lead series was, “Your Communication Matters”. This session provided tips on how to improve your record keeping and computer skills! Feeding Tampa Bay thanks our guest speaker, Dr. Burt Neumeier, from St. Chad’s Episcopal Church for sharing his knowledge on computer education!

   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.

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

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

**AGENCY TIP**

A **succession plan** will address issues related to both planned and unplanned departures. Many agencies don’t have a staff member or volunteer that could step in and take charge at a moment’s notice if an emergency were to occur. If your agency has someone that already is or can become a trained successor, then please submit that information to Feeding Tampa Bay so that it can be added to your agency file.

To start the process and submit your agency’s succession plan, please visit the following link: https://form.jotform.com/63044260996965

Please contact Jessenya Ramirez for assistance: jramirez@feedingtampabay.org

**NEW RESOURCE - FOOD KEEPER**

Food Keeper is an App designed by the USDA to help reduce food waste. This App is intended for consumers to maximize the freshness and the quality of food by providing proper storage and food handling guidelines.

The Food Keeper App can be downloaded on the App Store and on Google Play.

For more information please visit: www.fsis.usda.gov/wps/portal/fsis/topics/food-safety-education/featured-campaign