

Action Plan Recommendations Report Card, Dr. Robert Marbut Ph.D. Apr 2015 A+ for All Faiths Food Bank

7 - Empty Your Pantry Before You Go North

A seasonally targeted program should be developed to address seasonal shortages in food supplies within the All Faiths Food Bank. This effort should promote cash and food donations before seasonal residents move north for the season. This *“empty your pantry before you go north”* program should be promoted through a comprehensive public service campaign.

Grade A+ All Faiths Food Bank:

- The “CASH and Cans” (Campaign Against Summer Hunger) through herculean efforts of the All Faiths Food Bank, Gulf Coast Community Foundation and many others has become such a success that it has become the national best practice in this area.

- In 2014, the first year of CASH and Cans, the campaign raised \$1.2 million cash and collected 827,000 pounds of food. Nine new mobile pantries distributed 147,992 meals to families. The newly created Summer Backpack program had 18 sites and distributed food to 3,449 children. The newly deployed Sprout Mobile Farm Market distributed more than Martbut Sarasota Report Card – 13

84,000 units of fresh produce to 3,460 people (including 1,032 children). Partner Summer Feeding Agencies provided 1,172,222 units of food and 985,781 meals to fed 12,972 people (including 3,972 children). The enhanced School District Summer Programs provided 288,883 meals to 3,000+ children.

In total more than 15,500 children regularly received food in the Summer of 2014 compared to just 5,200 meals for the whole Summer of 2013.

- The CASH and Cans program was so successful that it won the Secretaries Award (Secretaries of HUD and USDA) for public-philanthropic partnership. The campaign was intentionally designed to be repeated annually in Sarasota, and easily scaled so that it can be replicated in other communities. As a result of this campaign, the food bank did not run out of food over the summer, and the community saw a 300% increase in the number of children receiving food over the summer break.

- To date in 2015, CASH and Cans has raised \$1.2 million and 935,000 pounds of food, with donations still coming in. Since several big-ticket start-up equipment items were purchased within the 2014 budget (eg trucks, food equipment, etc.), then means there will actually be more funds spent in 2015 on direct food and services to help individuals in need.

- Because of realized system improvements, All Faiths Food Bank has managed this increase in operating tempo with just volunteers and seasonal staff hiring. The Food Bank has not increased the full-time, year-round staffing level of the Food Bank.