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Healthy Food for a Healthy Community: You’re Helping Create a Brighter Future

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Dear Neighbor,

I want to thank you. Our hunger-relief efforts truly wouldn’t be possible without your support.

The summer is always a critical time in the fight against hunger, and because you choose to give, we’ve made great strides in meeting the heightened need for food this year.

Your gifts have helped make sure children who would typically rely on free and reduced-price meal programs can access healthy food while classes are out of session. You’ve helped fill empty plates and pantries through food-filled backpacks, mobile pantries reaching rural areas and school distributions ensuring kids and their families have enough to eat even when schools are closed.

But the crisis isn’t over. COVID-19 has created a pandemic of hunger in our community. With an uncertain future ahead of us, it’s a true comfort for your neighbors to know they can count on you.

I hope you’ll flip to page 4 to learn how your gifts are changing lives. Your support means countless children and their families are able to sit down to a full, balanced meal together.

We’re all looking forward to a brighter tomorrow. Because you choose to give, we know better times are coming for our community.

All my best,

Sandra Frank, JD
Chief Executive Officer

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COVID is creating a pandemic of hunger in our community.

$ for $ Match
Donate today to help at allfaithsfoodbank.org

Volunteers Make It Happen

Thank You for Changing Lives Susan

Susan is a dedicated All Faiths Food Bank volunteer. This is her seventh year running the food pantry, and she says with a grateful smile that her school’s principal, assistant principal and many staff members come to help out as well.

“Our elementary school is located at the very edge of the county,” Susan says. “Many of our students receive free breakfast and lunch. It’s considered a food desert.”

Many local parents work in restaurants or in offices that have had to close down due to the pandemic. Susan also works with students whose caregivers have health problems that accrue substantial medical bills.

She says she often sees kids raised by grandparents who struggle to make fixed Social Security incomes stretch.

“They always told us how much of a difference the pantry made for their families, helping them get to the next paycheck,” she says. “Now that paychecks went away for a while, they became desperate to know that they could feed their families when nothing else was a given.”

Your partnership makes a real difference in the lives of the students and families Susan serves. These families could not be more thankful you choose to give.

“We still have months to go,” Susan says of the pandemic, “but the burden you’ve taken away from our clients is amazing.”

Paul Balzano Is a Hunger Hero!

“A friend said, ‘you and I are going to go help food pantries,’” Paul remembers. “He wanted to make sure I had something to do.”

Paul began volunteering with All Faiths Food Bank in 2014, shortly after his wife passed away. But giving his time is much more than simply filling the hours. In 2010 Paul spent two weeks in the ICU, and he sees his volunteer efforts as a way to perpetuate his own good fortune.

“In my mind it’s a matter of giving back,” he says. “Me helping my neighbors is like giving them a second chance.”

Paul has been eager to help out through the pandemic. He quickly learned safety protocols and joined All Faiths Food Bank’s staff and volunteers sharing food with families and individuals missing paychecks and losing jobs due to COVID-19.

“I believe this is my purpose,” Paul says. “I’m reaching into people’s hearts to help them better themselves. I believe we have so many people who just need that little assistance, a little help getting back up.”

We couldn’t be more appreciative of Paul’s willingness to help. On behalf of the many neighbors you reach through your volunteer hours, thank you for supporting our community’s recovery!
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We’re all looking forward to a brighter tomorrow. Because you choose to give, we know better times are coming for our community.

I want to thank you for your partnership. Your gifts of time, treasure and voice help connect your neighbors with the good nutrition they need to thrive. I’m so grateful you’re helping your community’s greatest needs.

All my best,
Sandra Frank, JD
Chief Executive Officer

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We are so thankful to the Joe and Mary Kay Henson Family Fund for this $500,000 matching gift! Your outpouring of support has been so great, an additional donor through the Community Foundation of Sarasota County was inspired by to give an additional $100,000 to increase the match to $600,000! During this time of crisis, your support changes lives.

Donate today to help at allfaithsfoodbank.org

Staff at All Faiths work towards ending hunger in Sarasota County.
Jessica and her husband are raising their two little girls — Aaliyah, 12, and Jessica, 8. Their dad works as a boat mechanic, but his income isn’t stable. Jessica hopes to supplement his paychecks with a job of her own, but like countless people right now, she’s having a hard time finding work.

In the meantime, it’s a struggle to afford enough food on the table.

The couple attends one of All Faiths Food Bank’s school pantries. That means Jessica can pick up nutritious groceries from the girls’ school to take home and prepare healthy meals and snacks for her family. School pantries have reported a significant increase in service since the pandemic started.

If it weren’t for your support, Jessica would have a hard time filling her family’s table.

As Jessica continues to look for work, she’s giving thanks for your gifts, which are a true lifeline in providing for basic needs.

“Thank you for the help you give,” Jessica says. “We appreciate it and thank you from the bottom of our hearts.”

We couldn’t be more grateful for your partnership in this important work. On behalf of the many people who are struggling in the wake of the pandemic, thank you for your support.

You’re Growing Strong Families Across Our Community

Create a Lasting Legacy

Help end hunger by including All Faiths Food Bank in your estate plans and becoming part of the Ending Hunger Society.

To learn more, please contact Denise Cotler at dcotler@allfaithsfoodbank.org or 941-315-7671.