



# feeding MATTERS

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## Church Community Services Becomes a Partnering Distribution Organization (PDO) of the Food Bank

*Enhanced Partnership Will Enable More Food to Be Distributed in Elkhart County to Those in Need*



*Rod Roberson, Church Community Services, speaks with the news media about their new PDO partnership with the Food Bank.*

In an effort to distribute as much food as effectively and efficiently as possible in Elkhart County, the Food Bank of Northern Indiana has entered into a Partnering Distribution Organization (PDO) relationship with Church Community Services. The PDO relationship will begin during the first quarter of 2013. The Food Bank's 30 member agencies in Elkhart County will work more closely with Church Community Services to secure and distribute food. Currently, 26,573 people are living in poverty in Elkhart County. The PDO relationship with Church Community Services will enable the Food Bank to increase local and regional awareness that hunger is a community health issue.

"As the lead hunger relief organization in northern Indiana, the Food Bank strives to find innovative ways to alleviate hunger in our six-county service area," said Milt Lee, Food Bank of Northern Indiana executive director. "Enhancing our relationship with Church Community Services as a PDO of the Food Bank will enable our organizations to feed even more people in Elkhart County. We are extremely impressed with the work they do and welcome their expertise as a subsidiary of ours," he said.



*Jaime Owen, Food Bank, and Mary Kneller, Church Community Services, discuss the new PDO partnership with news conference attendees.*

Rod Roberson, executive director of Church Community Services, said, "This relationship between Church Community Services and the Food Bank of Northern Indiana clearly demonstrates our ability to build a functional Elkhart County platform to serve local hunger. Historically, there have been many meaningful efforts to increase the volume of food for hunger relief in Elkhart County. This PDO contract will substantially transform our county's efforts to serve the needs of poverty. Food procurement will become more efficient and more financially prudent, thereby creating a more abundant food supply for pantries and hot meal sites throughout Elkhart County."

Church Community Services has the largest food pantry in Elkhart County, serving an average of 2,200 families each month.

The PDO relationship between the Food Bank and Church Community Services will include product distribution management, agency relations management and food solicitation in Elkhart County.

# A MESSAGE FROM MILT



**"2013 will be the  
year of action for  
the Food Bank"**

*Milt Lee, Executive Director, Food Bank*

Thank you so much for your tireless and selfless commitment in 2012. Because of the efforts of each agency, volunteer, donor, student, business and community stakeholder, the Food Bank of Northern Indiana effectively distributed over 6 million pounds to families in need across six counties last year, and we shined a brilliant light on the effects of hunger and the collective plans for 2013 to alleviate its effects on our friends and neighbors.

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of the Food Bank of Northern Indiana and our fight against hunger. This landmark year will serve as the launching pad for an aggressive attack on this public health issue that is unmatched to this point. You will see a Mayors Taskforce in full operation to bring city resources to the fight. You will witness organized teams of volunteers from different disciplines taking to the streets to educate and procure healthier foods. Hospitals and businesses have pledged true collaborations, while schools and universities will work together to harness the energy of young people.

Yes, 2013 will be the year of action for the Food Bank. And, with your help, all actions will lead to a healthier and stronger community.

Milt Lee  
Executive Director and CEO

## Student Hunger Drive Comes to Northern Indiana

***Drive Aimed to Unite and Empower Area High Schools  
in the Commitment to Feed the Hungry and Promote  
Community Volunteerism***

Seven high schools in northern Indiana – The Crossings, John Adams, JAG Out of School Youth, Marian, Riley, St. Joseph and Washington High Schools – recently participated in the inaugural Student Hunger Drive of Northern Indiana.

The Student Hunger Drive is a campaign to collect and donate food to the Food Bank by area high school students. With the help of a faculty advisor, student teams planned events over a six week period to promote the Student Hunger Drive, organize their food collection, and also package and deliver their food to the Food Bank. The Student Hunger Drive was launched in early October at the Food Bank with a kick-off party and talent competition.



*Student  
representatives  
from participating  
schools reveal the  
number of pounds  
collected in the  
inaugural Student  
Hunger Drive of  
Northern Indiana.*

community. Students were recognized for their efforts at the Finale Rally on the last day of the Drive in mid-November. Prizes were awarded for different levels of achievement and for the creativity of



*St. Joseph High School students with part of their delivery of food for the Food Bank during the Finale Rally. St. Joseph High School took first place for the inaugural drive.*

their events promoting the Drive. All schools raising at least three pounds of food per student received participation funds, which may be used to offset Student Hunger Drive expenses, for other projects, or as donations. First place went to St. Joseph High School with Marian High School as runner-up. Washington High School was awarded the mission prize.

The Student Hunger Drive was founded in 1986 by Pete Pohlman, then President of Lujack's Autoplaza in the Quad Cities. For the first seven years of the Student Hunger Drive, Lujack's was the sole sponsor. The Student Hunger Drive, Inc. was created in 1993 as a non-profit 501c3 organization. In its inaugural year, the SHD Quad Cities resulted in 29,000 pounds of food. Last year, teens collected 756,498 pounds of food. During five of the past 10 years, Quad City teens collected over 1 million pounds of food. In all, Quad City teens have donated over 14,412,396 pounds of food to the River Bend Foodbank in the past 26 years.

The history of the Student Hunger Drive speaks for itself, and the goal is to share this mission nationally, one community at a time. In addition to the Quad Cities, the Student Hunger Drive also takes place in Charlotte, North Carolina.



*Participating students in the 2012 Student Hunger Drive of Northern Indiana sign their names on a collection barrel for this inaugural drive.*



**Share your time and talent with us!** Volunteer at the Food Bank. In 2012, volunteers contributed nearly 20,600 hours to help feed the hungry. Call (574) 232.9986 x128 or visit [feedindiana.org](http://feedindiana.org).

## AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

The Agency Relations Department hosted several regional meetings throughout 2012. These meetings, each held in our six-county service area, provided an opportunity for our member agencies to network with other agencies within their community, keep abreast of Food Bank news and share ideas and concerns. Regional meetings will continue as part of our outreach in 2013.

The Fourth Annual Agency Conference was held in October. Guest speakers from Feeding Indiana's Hungry (FIH), JAG After School Program, the Elkhart County Health Department, as well as speakers from the Food Bank's staff, provided information and new ideas for member agencies. 2012 Agency Partners of the Year included: House of Prayer, Plymouth; First United Methodist Church, South Bend; Christ's Commissary, Elkhart; Salvation Army, Warsaw; and Sacred Heart School, Rolling Prairie.

The Agency Relations Department continues to focus its efforts on the *National Hunger in America 2014 Study* sponsored by Feeding America. Information collected from the Hunger Study will help Feeding America and its network of 200 food banks better understand the agencies they work with to provide hunger relief and the clients that receive services. Data received from this study will be used to educate donors and the public about the scope of services provided by food banks and to advocate for government assistance. Each agency in the Food Bank's network has been asked to complete an extensive online survey about its facilities and operations. In 2013, individual client surveys will begin. *Hunger in America 2014* is the sixth in a series of studies, with each study surpassing the previous ones in scope and impact.



Jaime Owen, Food Bank, presents Brother Jordan, Sacred Heart School, Rolling Prairie, with a 2012 Agency of the Year award.



Jaime Owen, Food Bank, presents Lisa Baughman, House of Prayer, Plymouth, with a 2012 Agency of the Year award.



Jaime Owen, Food Bank, presents Shelley Rose, Christ's Commissary, Elkhart, with a 2012 Agency of the Year award.



Jaime Owen, Food Bank, presents Karen Anderson, First United Methodist Church, South Bend, with a 2012 Agency of the Year award.

# FOOD FINDERS

## Working with Retailers, Manufacturers and Growers to Feed the Hungry

### Meijer Expands Food Rescue Program in Indiana with the Food Bank

*Retailer's Food Rescue Program Continues to Grow with 80% Store Participation*

Meijer recently announced continued growth of its hunger relief efforts by expanding its food rescue program to eight additional food banks across the Midwest, including the Food Bank of Northern Indiana. "We are excited to begin this partnership with the Food Bank of Northern Indiana, because it's another way to get good food to hungry people," said Brian Schuler, Store Director of the Mishawaka Meijer. "Not only are we helping with hunger relief, but our program also provides healthy choices to a great number of people who rely on food banks for their meals."

The Meijer food rescue program helps increase the total tonnage of food delivered to local food banks while utilizing quality food that would otherwise go to waste. Nearly 700,000 pounds of food, which accounts for more than 527,700 meals, was donated in 2011 by Meijer to local food banks.

"This commitment for Meijer goes deeper than food donation," said Food Bank Executive Director Milt Lee. "They have clearly adopted a sense of social responsibility as part of their company and store culture, and every community they serve will benefit. We are very proud of this relationship."

Meijer began its food rescue program in 2008 with food banks picking up fresh food – meat, cheese and select deli and bakery items – from 29 stores in southeast Michigan. It has grown with more than 160 Meijer stores participating with a rescue food bank, and will expand company-wide in 2013.

Participating food banks pick up fresh food from their local Meijer store 2-3 times per week. An estimated 2,400 products are available to donate to food banks.

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Food Bank of Northern Indiana

Marijo Martinec, Editor  
Food Bank of Northern Indiana

*The Food Bank of Northern Indiana works in partnership with the community to feed the hungry, increase awareness of the effects of hunger, and lead programs designed to alleviate hunger. The Food Bank of Northern Indiana serves Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall, Starke and St. Joseph Counties and is a member of Feeding America, Feeding Indiana's Hungry (FIH) and United Way.*

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### Food 4 Kids Program Upgraded in 2012

Beginning with the new school year, Food 4 Kids Fun Packs Program was enhanced for participants. Students, parents and school staff have been pleased with the new food items and structure of the program during the 2012-2013 school year. A survey was developed for students and their families, who were rewarded for completing and returning them.

Greater efforts will be made in 2013 to secure additional funding for the Food 4 Kids Program.



### Mobile Pantry Statistics

#### Mobile Pantry Program Distributions to Date

County	# of Distributions	Pounds	Households	Individuals
Elkhart	12	84,427	2,538	8,536
Kosciusko	9	65,641	1,844	5,335
Marshall	9	70,433	1,602	4,971
Starke	9	59,770	1,428	4,299
LaPorte	9	61,970	1,642	5,483
St. Joe	4	27,002	680	2,151
TOTAL	52	369,243	9,734	30,775

## SAVE THE DATE



**One Can  
Makes a  
Difference on  
the Second  
Saturday in  
May.**

The 21st Annual National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive is **Saturday, May 11.**

Place your non-perishable food items in a bag by your mailbox by 8 a.m., and your letter carrier will pick up your donation and deliver it to the Food Bank.

*Fresh produce and grains are available to those in need at the Mobile Pantries.*

