

## Educational Community Feeds the Hungry Through Food and Funds Drives

**ALL ACROSS NORTHERN INDIANA, STUDENT GROUPS COORDINATE FOOD DRIVES TO HELP THOSE IN NEED OF FOOD ASSISTANCE.**

In the fall of 2010, the University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College and Holy Cross College conducted the Holy Cross Harvest – a united effort among these three institutions to create awareness of food scarcity and hunger awareness in northern Indiana and collaborate with the Food Bank of Northern Indiana. This group conducted the Holy Cross Harvest for two more years.

In 2013, the University of Notre Dame became the Fighting Irish Fighting Hunger™ Food Drive held during the fall. Led by Ann Kolaczyk, proceeds from Fighting Irish Fighting Hunger™ benefit the Food Bank's Food 4 Kids Backpack Program. In 2015, the Notre Dame community raised \$17,220.00 through its food drive. Throughout the year, Notre Dame groups including Lewis Hall, Notre Dame Glee Club, Notre Dame Old to Gold, Notre Dame World Hunger Coalition and Rolfs Sport Recreation Center supported the Food Bank with food drives and monetary donations.

Saint Mary's College continues its Holy Cross Harvest each Fall with students, faculty and staff on campus through its Office of Social and Civic Engagement. In 2015, the Saint

Mary's community donated 863 pounds and \$1,149.00 in cash donations. In addition, the College purchased three pallet jacks for the Food Bank warehouse.

Area high school students took the pledge to be "Hunger Heroes" competing in the Student Hunger Drive of Northern Indiana. Over a six-week period, students from JAG Out of School Youth, John Adams High School, LaPorte High School, Marian High School, Penn High School, New Prairie High School and Washington High School raised money and food for the Food Bank. This friendly competition enables area students to use their creativity to raise food and money for the Food Bank and pantries they serve. The 2015 Student Hunger Drive raised 97,213 pounds. The mission of the Student Hunger Drive is to unite and empower area high school students in the commitment to feed the hungry and promote volunteerism.

In addition, area schools and educational facilities donated 12,823 pounds of food and \$1,025.15 in cash contributions.

### A special shout-out to:

Academy Arts Pre-School, American National University, Apple Tree Learning Center, Beardsley Elementary School, Clay High School, Corpus Christi Catholic School, Covenant Christian School, Dickinson Fine Arts Academy, Elm Road School, Hamilton Traditional School, Kennedy Primary Academy, La Petite



Riley High School, located in South Bend, ROTC members conducted a food drive in the fall of 2015, collecting 173 pounds of non-perishables.

Academy, LaSalle Intermediate Academy, Muessel Primary Center, Purdue Extension of St. Joseph County, Purdue University North Central, Riley High School, Rise Up Academy, Ross Medical Education Center, The Stanley Clark School, Studebaker School, Veritas Academy and Xavier School of Excellence.



Anne Kolaczyk, food drive coordinator, Fighting Irish Fighting Hunger™, presents Milt Lee with a check from funds raised through its 2015 drive.

We are fortunate to have caring future philanthropists in our community. They know that together, we can solve hunger.



# SOMETHING TO ACT ON

Here is a challenge everyone should take. Feed yourself on the average SNAP benefit of \$1.50 per meal every day for 30 days. Tough indeed. Now try feeding yourself and your family without that benefit, and without a job. That's what many rehabilitated drug felons face after they've paid their debt to society. As one would imagine, many employers won't gamble on someone who has made such bad choices in life. However, a drug offense is the only felony that is penalized with no opportunity for nutritious food assistance. That's right. Steal hundreds of millions of dollars from vulnerable and unsuspecting Americans in a Ponzi scheme and you're still eligible for your monthly \$120.00.

Not one of us would condone drug abuse on any level. But, why not eliminate one of the causes of recidivism. When asking repeat offenders of any crime why they find themselves serving multiple terms, the answer is consistent... No access to jobs, no transportation, no means to feed me or my family. And, let's not forget that committed, emergency food and assistance professionals and donors have to absorb the pressure these folks put on our network of food pantries. According to Bureau of Justice statistics, nearly one-quarter of a million people are incarcerated for drug felonies alone.

The good news is there is a bill (132) authored by Senator John Broden and trumpeted by reentry expert Cheryl Ashe that will give those attempting to put their lives back together a fighting chance to eliminate one of the obstacles to successful reentry into the community: Eligibility for food assistance.

Let's decide to be part of the solution and take some pressure off our volunteers and donors in all the counties we serve.

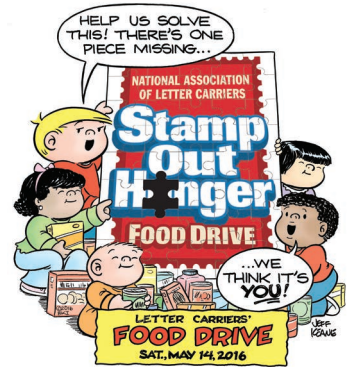
Milt Lee,

Executive Director and CEO

## 24th Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Set for Saturday, May 14

*Letter Carriers, With Generous Support of the Community, Will Restock Food Bank's Shelves for the Summer Months During the Largest Food Drive of the Year*

Mark your calendar for the Food Bank's largest food drive of the year – the 24th Annual Stamp Out Hunger on Saturday, May 14. On the second Saturday in May, members of the National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) #330 will be collecting food along their routes to stamp out hunger and help the Food Bank restock member agencies shelves for the summer months when the need is high, and food donations are extremely low.



Stamp Out Hunger takes place in communities all across the country and is the nation's largest one-day food drive. It is the Food Bank's largest drive each year. Stamp Out Hunger began in 1993 as an outreach into communities by the NALC.

Our 2016 goal in St. Joseph County is to collect 100,000 pounds. Last year, 87,339 pounds was collected.

Place your donation in a bag by your mailbox by 8 a.m. and your letter carrier will deliver your donation to the Food Bank.

Most needed items include: peanut butter and grape jelly, macaroni and cheese, pasta (including spaghetti, elbow macaroni and wide egg noodles), pasta sauce, long grain white rice, canned white chunk chicken and canned chunk light tuna, canned whole kernel corn, canned green beans, instant scalloped potatoes, instant mashed potatoes, buttermilk pancake mix, pancake syrup, chicken flavored rice mix, boxed meal dinners, personal care items and cleaning supplies.

The Food Bank is in need of volunteer "sweepers" to assist letter carriers along their routes, collecting food in neighborhoods in South Bend.

For more information about Stamp Out Hunger, please call (574) 232.9986 ext. 124.



*South Bend Clinic team members fold bags in preparation for the 2016 Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.*

## FOOD FINDERS

To meet the need for emergency food assistance, the Food Bank continues to actively seek and partner with local, regional and national food manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, food growers, packers and grocers to procure more protein, produce and dairy to our network of member agencies.

Our goal is to distribute 10 million pounds through our network of agencies by 2018.

Through January 2016 (due to production schedule of *Feeding Matters*), the Food Bank has distributed 440,719.26 pounds of product.

# WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

"It doesn't take a big commitment to make a big impact." Feeding America's new volunteer campaign to mobilize the public to volunteer at food banks began in January with New Year resolutions and MLK Day of Service to remind the public that hunger is a year-round issue.

## **Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Food Bank.**

Each year, thousands of people donate their time performing a variety of tasks to ensure those in need of food assistance receive the food they require. We rely on thousands of individuals, families, school groups, church groups, businesses and organizations to perform a variety of tasks to ensure that our member agencies have product to distribute to those in need of food assistance.

**Beginning in January, Food Bank staff has made a commitment to actively participate in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program's (SNAP) Outreach Program.** We are in need of volunteers with some computer skills who can assist clients in signing up for these benefits. A commitment of four to eight hours each month can help create a healthier community.

In addition, the Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County (the food pantry located on site at the Food Bank) is open Monday and Friday from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Wednesdays from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m., feeding approximately 450 households each week. This pantry is always in need of volunteers to assist with client check-in, stocking, shopping and check-out assistance.

**We have many other opportunities here at the Food Bank including food sorting, filling Food 4 Kids Backpack food bags, inside/outside facility maintenance, filling senior nutrition bags, filling senior boxes and a once a month distribution of those boxes.**

Can we count on your support? For more information about volunteer opportunities, please call (574) 232-9986 ext. 137.

# THANKS, AGENCY PARTNERS

We are delighted to welcome two new partner agencies who joined us at the end of 2015. God's Grace Food Pantry of Layman Chapel CME Church is located in South Bend. The grand opening for their new food pantry was held in January. They look forward to serving their neighbors on the west side of town and to their partnership with the Food Bank of Northern Indiana.

**Titans Feeding Titans Food Pantry** opened on January 11 in the Student Activity Center at Indiana University South Bend. The pantry will serve undergraduate and graduate students and their families. Many of the University's students are working poor, first-generation college students. The Titans Feeding Titans pantry will be staffed by student volunteers and run by the Social Work Student Association. The Food Bank of Northern Indiana is happy to partner with this very worthwhile and innovative organization. Across the country, many colleges and universities are recognizing the need for food pantries to serve their needy students.

In December, the Food Bank hosted its first annual Christmas reception and open house. Representatives from several of our partner agencies enjoyed refreshments and fellowship in our agency shopping area. It was a lovely opportunity to chat with each other and with Food Bank staff. A gift certificate for \$100 worth of food was given to each attending agency. Food Bank staff are already planning another reception for this summer.

## Beverly J. Waumans

*October 1931 - January 2016*

Since 2010, Beverly Waumans, administrative assistant, was the first face and first voice that greeted clients and visitors to the Food Bank of Northern Indiana – always with a smile on her face.

Passionate about feeding the hungry, Beverly always had a positive message to share with pantry clients and was a cheerleader for our hard-working agency partners.

Beverly was our very own "Mother Nature," feeding many orphan birds, feral cats and stray dogs.



She had a wicked sense of humor, was a voracious reader and as a young woman, had aspirations of becoming a commercial artist.

While battling illness, she taught us grace. Rest in peace, Beverly. We miss your hearty laugh.

## Mobile Pantry Statistics

County	# of Distributions	Pounds	Individuals	Households
Elkhart	1	6,676	561	157
Kosciusko	1	3,784	499	129
Marshall	1	4,034	283	89
Starke	1	3,810	239	83
LaPorte	1	5,420	321	93
St. Joe	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>23,724</b>	<b>1,903</b>	<b>551</b>

Due to the production schedule of Feeding Matters, these numbers reflect mobile food pantries through January 31, 2016.



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Milt Lee, Executive Director and CEO  
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.

The Food Bank of Northern Indiana is a proud member of the National Diaper Bank Network.

# HOW WE DO IT

## Senior Nutrition Program

There are 691 seniors in the Food Bank's six-county service area participating in this senior nutrition program. This program is partially funded by the Food Bank and through a grant provided by the Indiana Department of Agriculture. The bag contains items such as canned tuna or chicken, potatoes, peanut butter, cereal, rice, macaroni and cheese, applesauce, vegetables, spaghetti sauce and noodles, pancake mix and syrup, bread and meat. The program costs \$8.00 to feed one senior each month. Call (574) 232.9986 ext. 122 for more information about the Senior Nutrition Program.

## Food 4 Kids Backpack Program

During the 2015-2016 school year, 2,000 students in 40 schools in five counties participated in the program.

This program is free to participating students and the need continues to be great. Many schools have eligible students on a waiting list to participate.

The program costs \$140 per child for the school year or \$7,500 for 50 students. Call (574) 232.9986 ext. 124 to find out how you can change the life of a child.

## Healthy Choices Market

The Healthy Choices Market is a kitchen, classroom, and mini farmers market developed by the Food Bank to help low income diabetes and high blood pressure clients empower themselves to create a healthier lifestyle. Fresh fruits, vegetables and lean protein often times are in limited supply at area food pantries. It's a struggle to live a healthier lifestyle with limited options.

In partnership with Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center and Memorial Hospital of South Bend, clients attend a hands-on cooking class by volunteer chefs from the American Culinary Federation South Bend Chefs and Cooks Association. Classes are conducted in both English and Spanish. Clients learn new recipes with fresh items and those typically found in a food pantry. Clients sample the dishes made and leave with items to cook at home, too.

An investment of \$300 provides three participants to learn, choose and live each month. Call (574) 232.9986 ext. 124 to learn how you can create a healthier community.

## Commodity Supplemental Food Program

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is a federal program for low income seniors, ages 60 and older. Enrollment began last September and the first distribution took place in October. Eligible, pre-certified seniors receive a box of nutritious, shelf stable food each month in Elkhart, LaPorte and St. Joseph Counties.

Participation in the program does not prohibit clients from visiting their local food pantry or soup kitchen as they normally would.

Originally limited to 450 low-income seniors, the program expanded to 504 seniors in early 2016.

The Food Bank received a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to cover program costs.

Agency partners The Window in Goshen, Faith Mission in Elkhart, and Salvation Army LaPorte assist with the distribution of this program.

## Sixth Annual Hunger Scramble Golf Outing Tees Off on Friday, May 20

*Proceeds Benefit the Food Bank's Food 4 Kids Backpack Program*

Help a child concentrate on learning during the school year instead of focusing on the pangs of hunger. **The 2016 Hunger Scramble Golf Outing** benefits the Food Bank of Northern Indiana's Food 4 Kids Fun Packs Program and takes place on **Friday, May 20, at Knollwood Country Club**. Special thanks to Kroger, The Jordan Automotive Group and Fox 28 for their longtime sponsorship commitment to this event.

The Food 4 Kids Backpack Program is an emergency food assistance program designed for students in grades K-6. Each Friday during the school year, students receive a bag of nutritious, kid-friendly, shelf-stable and ready-to-eat items that require little or no cooking (some items may need to be heated in a microwave). The cost to feed one student for

the school year is \$140. During the 2015-2016 school year, 2,000 students in four counties in northern Indiana participated in the Food 4 Kids Fun Packs Program.

The cost is **\$125 per individual or \$400.00 per foursome**. Includes 18 holes of championship golf and shared cart, box lunch, beverages, buffet dinner, silent auction and awards ceremony. No rain date or refunds. Registration deadline is May 11.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Marijo Martinec at (574) 232-9986 ext. 124 or [mmartinec@feedingamerica.org](mailto:mmartinec@feedingamerica.org)

**11 a.m. - Registration Opens**  
**12:30 p.m. - Scramble Begins**  
**5:30 p.m. - Dinner, Silent Auction and Awards Ceremony**  
**Register online at** <http://www.bit.ly/hungerscramble2016>

