

## Get Your Business Involved

The Food Bank of Northern Indiana is launching a corporate social responsibility TEAM BUILDING program for businesses and organizations in our six-county service area. This program will help improve employee communications skills, build stronger teams and foster community in helping those in need of food assistance.

Our Community through Corporate Conscience Program will provide tools for team building with results that leave a lasting impression. Sessions will improve morale among attendees through fun and meaningful activities. One-half day and full day sessions will be available including on-site opportunities for breakfast and lunch.

This program will begin in September. For more information, please call Marijo Martinec at (574)232.9986 ext. 124.







## SOMETHING TO ACT ON

A big focus for the Food Bank in 2017 is "Foods to Encourage." This term is defined as items from the four food groups that are rich in nutrients necessary to promote good health. Our specific goal is to increase the availability and access to these foods by first increasing and maintaining our inventory by 25%, or an additional two million pounds, with an intense focus on produce. Our agency partners, and more importantly, all the clients we serve as a network, stand to benefit greatly.

We are working hard with partners like Aldi, Meijer, Sam's Club, Walmart and Kroger in an effort to pay close attention to the possibility of donating more fresh produce. We are developing deeper relationships and strategies with egg farmers, food brokers and prepared meal organizations. All this adds up to healthier communities.

So, thank you in advance, whether you are a financial investor, pantry partner, food drive organizer or mission partner. 2017 is the year you will become a stakeholder in the fight to make us all better.

*Mike Lee*

Executive Director and CEO



## 25th National Association of Letter Carriers (N.A.L.C.) Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive Set for Saturday, May 13

Members of the N.A.L.C. will be collecting food along their routes during the 25th Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive on Saturday, May 13. Stamp Out Hunger takes place in communities all across the county and is the nation's largest one-day food drive. It is the Food Bank's largest drive each year and helps



us restock agency members' shelves for the summer months when the need is high and food donations are extremely low.

**Our 2017 goal is to collect 100,000 pounds.** Last year, 81,932 pounds was collected.

Place your donation in a bag by your mailbox (plastic if it looks like rain) by 8 a.m. and your letter carrier will deliver your donation to the Food Bank.

Volunteers are needed to assist letter carriers along their routes, collecting food in neighborhoods in South Bend. Call (544) 232.9986 ext. 124 for more information about the 25th Stamp Out Hunger.

## Inaugural MORE FOOD MORE COWBELL Challenge

In recognition of the 25th Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, the Food Bank is recruiting 25 St. Joseph County businesses to participate in the More Food More Cowbell Challenge.

Organizations will commit to raising 2,000 lbs. of food from April 24 – May 12, 2017. The Food Bank will provide orange collection barrels for this drive. The business that raises the most food wins a traveling Cowbell Trophy and one to keep.

**We need lots of community support (and lots of cowbell) to reach our 100,000 lb. goal.**

For more information, call (574) 232.9986 ext. 124 or email [mmartinec@feedingamerica.org](mailto:mmartinec@feedingamerica.org).

## 2017 Mobile Food Pantry Statistics

County	# of Distributions	Pounds	Individuals	Households
Elkhart	2	15,610	555	143
Kosciusko	0	0	0	0
Marshall	1	6,479	262	74
Starke	2	14,493	427	168
LaPorte	2	19,162	443	132
St. Joseph	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	7	55,744	1,687	517

*Due to the production schedule of Feeding Matters, these numbers reflect mobile food pantries through February 28, 2017.*

## Agency Partner News

Our member agencies that receive USDA commodities welcomed Douglas Adam last fall. Adam is the director of The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) for the state of Indiana. He presented civil rights training for the participating agencies as well as an overview of other compliance issues. Adam brings a wealth of knowledge, sense of humor and great passion for feeding the hungry.

The Food Bank hopes to offer training opportunities for agency partners later this year. In the past, we have hosted both regional meetings as well as larger agency conferences. Possible topics could include: safe food handling, fundraising, social media and best practices.

We welcome new agency partners: Women's Care Center, New Creations Praise Center, The Lord's House of Shepherd, Cultivate Culinary and Lots of Love Food Pantry at New Philadelphia Church. We look forward to a long and fruitful partnership with each of these worthy organizations.

## Food Finders

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

Through February 2017 (*due to the production schedule of Feeding Matters*), the Food Bank distributed 1,253,410 pounds of product.

New food donor partners include: AL-MADINA, Archway, Lone Star Steakhouse, Malt-O-Meal, On Time Food Service, DBA Cedar's Mediterranean Food, RTI Services (began receiving product last November and quickly became the third largest product donor of 2016) and Sam's Club (a commitment to donate produce). In addition, a relationship was re-established with Culver Duck for duck eggs.

## HOW WE DO IT

### Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

The Food Bank's caseload for CSFP was increased in January to 529 boxes per month. Currently, we serve clients in Elkhart, LaPorte and St. Joseph Counties, with distribution sites at Faith Mission, The Pax Center, Salvation Army Michigan City, The Window and the Food Bank. Real Services has begun partnering with us to deliver boxes to homebound clients in South Bend.

Each month, pre-certified clients receive a box of nutritious, shelf stable food including canned fruits and vegetables, canned protein, pasta, peanut butter or dried beans, fruit and vegetable juices, cereal, and shelf stable and dry milk and cheese.

In order to qualify for the program, clients must be 60 years of age or older, reside in one of the three counties where the program is offered and have an income that is less than 130% of the federal poverty level. We are grateful for our partnership with the USDA and the Indiana Department of Health for allowing us to participate in this valuable program for seniors.



### Food 4 Kids Backpack Program

The Food 4 Kids Backpack Program is an emergency food assistance program for students in grades K-6. Each Friday during the school year, participating students receive a bag of nutritious, kid-friendly, shelf-stable and ready-to-eat items that require little to no cooking for weekends and during holiday breaks. During the 2016-2017 school year, the Backpack Program is serving nearly 2,000 students in northern Indiana. The Jordan Automotive Group has been the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program Presenting Sponsor since 2009.

We'd do anything for children, right? Let's help them have the nutritional tools to be successful in school and life. Program costs are \$140 to feed one child for the school year. For more information, please call (574) 232.9986 ext. 124.

### Healthy Choices Market

The Healthy Choices Market is a kitchen, classroom and mini farmers market developed by the Food Bank where we help educate low income diabetes and high blood pressure patients on nutrition and offer free access to fresh produce and lean protein so they can create a healthier lifestyle.

An investment of \$300 provides three clients an opportunity to learn, choose and live a healthier lifestyle each month. Call (574) 232.9986 ext. 124 to learn how you can help create healthier communities.

### Senior Nutrition Program

In the U.S., more than five million seniors, age 60 and over, face hunger. Unique medical and mobility challenges put them at risk for hunger.

The Food Bank serves 802 low-income seniors in 12 locations through its Senior Nutrition Program. Each month, participating seniors receive a bag containing shelf stable items which helps them stretch their budget. The program cost is \$8.00 per month to feed one senior. Call (574) 232.9986 ext. 122 for more information.



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*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*



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## WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

It does not take a lot of time to make a big impact. Sorting, inspecting, stacking, packing and serving, volunteers fuel the Food Bank. Faith-based organizations in our six-county service area serve those in need as member agencies and Food Bank volunteers helping in a variety of capacities here at the Food Bank, on the road at our mobile food pantries and Food Bank special events.

Julie Brinkhoff, North Liberty Church of the Brethren said, "My church was looking for somewhere our members of various ages and abilities could volunteer without traveling too far. We had helped out with the annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive, but had no idea of all the other programs that were housed within the Food Bank. After a few weeks, the Food 4 Kids program became my church group's "home." A small group of us continues to volunteer twice a month, and a friend of mine with disabilities and I volunteer every Tuesday." She added, "Our time at the Food Bank is more than respite care, it is a way for my friend to be a productive member of society with consistent volunteer expectations weekly. It gives me, a stay-at-home mom, the opportunity to use some of my time to make a difference in people's/children's lives. Volunteering at the Food Bank is also great for people like my parents who are retired and looking for a meaningful way to serve and help those in need. The work is not difficult and they can choose how many hours they want to help out." She noted, "It doesn't take any special skill, just a willingness to work. It is a blessing to others and to them - it just feels good for them to do something for others! I have read that volunteers change lives, but I believe my life, as well as the lives of the other church members, have been changed by volunteering!"

When you make a commitment to share your time as a volunteer, you get something amazing in return - the feeling that you are helping put food on the table for those who need it. We need your help. For more information, please call, (574) 232.9986 ext. 137.



## Seventh Annual Hunger Scramble Golf Outing

Join us on Friday, May, 19, for the Seventh Annual Hunger Scramble Golf Outing at Knollwood Country Club. Proceeds benefit our Food 4 Kids Backpack Program. \$125 per individual or \$400 per foursome. Includes 18 holes of championship golf and shared cart, lunch, beverages, cocktail reception/awards ceremony and auction items provided by All-American Classics. No rain date or refunds. Registration deadline is May 10.

**Register online at [bitly.com/2017HungerScramble](http://bitly.com/2017HungerScramble).**

Let's help children in our community have the nutritional tools to be successful in school and life.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Contact Marijo Martinec at (574) 232.9986 ext. 124 or [mmartinec@feedingamerica.org](mailto:mmartinec@feedingamerica.org).



# THANK YOU!

Thank you to VFP Fire Systems, Koorsen Fire & Security and Martell Electric, LLC, for donating a fire panel, security panel cell back and installation for the Food Bank's updated security system in October 2016.