



feeding MATTERS

a publication of the Food Bank of Northern Indiana

spring 2013

Responding to the Need

Food Bank Celebrates 20th Year of Feeding the Hungry

Hunger was a community health issue 20 years ago.
Hunger continues to be a community health issue today.

In May 1993, United Religious Community of St. Joseph County's Hunger Education Task Force accepted the challenge of reestablishing food banking services in north central Indiana. That July, an organizing committee brought together the first board of directors that agreed that the North Central Indiana Food Bank would be the organization of record created to address local problems of hunger and malnutrition by providing quality food to participating social service agencies.

The North Central Indiana Food Bank began operations as a SDO (Subsidiary Distribution Organization) of Gleaners Food Bank of Indianapolis. Our first distribution of 6,800 pounds was made in December 1993 with 29 agencies participating.

As our member agencies and donor base grew, we became self sufficient and large enough to be considered for national certification. In February 1996, we became a certified food bank of the Second Harvest National Food Bank network. As a member of Second Harvest, we received offerings of donated product, with allotments based on the poverty population within our service area.

In July 2000, we purchased our location on Chapin Street in downtown South Bend, an 82,000-square-foot facility, to ensure adequate storage to meet the rising demand for food in northern Indiana.

In 2006, our organization's name was changed to the Food Bank of Northern Indiana serving six counties – Elkhart, LaPorte, Kosciusko, Marshall, Starke and St. Joseph. In 2008, America's Second Harvest changed its name to Feeding America, representing what their member food banks do each day.

The Food Bank of Northern Indiana actively partners with local and national manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, food growers, packers and brokers to procure food. We also work with businesses, organizations and individuals who conduct food and fund drives for us, and with financial support from corporations, organizations and individuals like you.

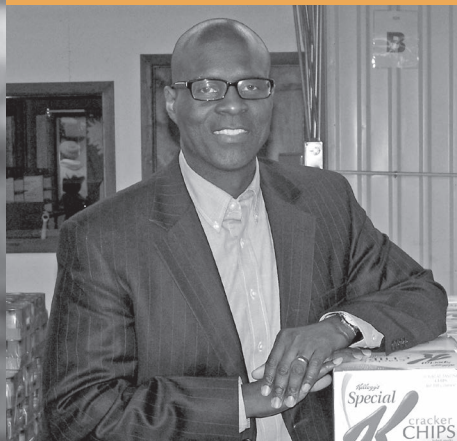
In 2012, we distributed 6 million pounds of food through 185 agencies.

Hunger was a community health issue 20 years ago. Hunger continues to be a community health issue today. ***Together, we are the voice for those who struggle with food insecurity.***





A MESSAGE FROM MILT



"Maybe every CEO of a Fortune 500 company should shadow a pantry coordinator, executive director or manager..."

THE FOOD BANK NEEDS YOU!

Share your time and talent with us as a Food Bank volunteer!

In 2012, volunteers contributed nearly 20,600 hours to help feed the hungry.

Call (574) 232.9986 x128 or visit feedindiana.org.

The first week of my new position at the helm of the Food Bank of Northern Indiana was fairly typical, with the exception of a single phone call. I was contacted by a gentleman named Bill Flint. Bill is the author of a book entitled "Servant Leadership, the Journey to Competitive Advantage." Over breakfast he would tell me the story of a corporate warrior who spent decades driving his company and employees toward record profits. Of course, the warrior met the familiar and often predictable fate of missed school activities, cancelled family vacations and overly medicated gut that constantly objected to any foods that actually tasted good. Although I wasn't surprised by the climax to his tale, I was caught off guard by his ultimate message. I was expecting the traditional "life is too short, smell the roses," finale. But, what punctuated his ending was something totally different. "You can have it all." It's tough as hell. But you can.

Yes. One can find or craft the perfect combination of life's mission, purpose, passion, career, relationships, family and ambition, and package it to suit your needs and talents while serving other people. I began to wonder what the world would be like if every entrepreneur or big business leader subscribed to this philosophy of management. Then I wondered who would teach them...you don't learn this in business school. A seminar can only take you so far, and forget about books on tape. Then it struck me! Every pantry leader-manager I know has these qualities and life experiences. Maybe every CEO of a Fortune 500 company should shadow a pantry coordinator, executive director or manager. Maybe every American President should work with as a volunteer coordinator or soup kitchen manager. Maybe every school principle should pack a back pack or deliver food to seniors. Then they would have earned the title of true leader in the eyes of those who need them the most.

Congratulations to all our pantry partners. You are true servant leaders.

Milt Lee
Executive Director and CEO

FOOD FINDERS

Working with Retailers, Manufacturers and Growers to Feed the Hungry

During the first quarter of 2013, the Food Bank has brought in nearly 1.4 million pounds of food through our facility, one half of which was donated product; government commodities and purchased product accounted for the other half. At the same time, we have been able to distribute more than 1.3 million pounds of product to our 185 member agencies in our six-county service area, as well as individual households, through our Mobile Pantry Program. We are grateful for the generous support through our store donation program (Walmart, Kroger, Meijer, Aldi, Target, Sam's Club and Marsh) and thrilled to announce the addition of Whole Foods to our retail donation program. The Food Bank will pick up product daily from Whole Foods.

Two of the most desired products for our member agencies continue to be meat and cereal; we are currently working to glean more fresh produce and dairy to provide an even greater variety for our agencies' clients.

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

In addition to the monthly distributions in our six-county service area, the Food Bank will begin running two additional pantries in St. Joseph County each month to meet the need.



AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

Work Continues Hunger Study

Of the Food Bank's member agencies, 156, completed the on-line survey for Hunger in America 2014. This gave the Food Bank a completion rate of 95%, nationally one of the highest rates among participating food banks. The agency survey collected information from all of the agencies and programs that receive food and groceries from Feeding America food banks across the country. The data and finding from the agency survey will help staff and volunteers at the Food Bank and our partner agencies do a better job of delivering food resources. The information will be used to help support advocacy and fundraising efforts on behalf of those in need.

Hunger in America 2014, also known as the Hunger Study, is being conducted by Feeding America and its partners, Westat, a Washington, D.C. research firm and the Urban Institute.

The next step of the Hunger Study is the Client Survey. Volunteer data collectors will visit randomly selected agencies throughout the Food Bank's network, where clients will be asked to complete an online survey. Feeding America has provided the Food Bank with six tablet computers, equipped with headphones so that the pantry or soup kitchen clients may complete the survey online, using a touch screen with complete privacy. This extensive project, the largest study of charitable food assistance in the country, will continue through the end of August. If you are interested in joining our team of volunteers for this very important project, please contact Jaime Owen, agency relations manager, at (574) 232.9986 ext. 127 or via email at jowen@feedingamerica.org.

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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 leads 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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Board of Directors

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Food 4 Kids Program Adds New Schools for 2013-2014 School Year

During the 2012-2013 school year, Food 4 Kids was able to add 50 students at Lincoln Elementary School in LaPorte County for the Fun Packs Program. The Salvation Army of LaPorte is the school's sponsor. In addition, the Salvation Army of LaPorte plans to sponsor three additional schools in LaPorte County for the 2013-2014 school year.

Osolo and Eastwood Elementary Schools in Elkhart will distribute Fun Packs during the 2013-2014 school year. These schools will be sponsored by 3 Cross Ministries. Osolo will serve 50 students and Eastwood will serve 10. In addition, Osolo will launch their Fun Pack Program by serving 20 students beginning in May for the rest of the 2012-2013 school year.

If you are interested in sponsoring a student or school, please contact Denise Singh, community educator and sustainability coordinator, at (574) 232.9986 ext. 137.



Senior Bag Delivery Program Expands in Six-County Service Area

Beginning in January, the Food Bank's Senior Bag Program expanded from one facility in St. Joseph County to 10 facilities in our six-county service area. In February, we received a call from a senior facility in Bremen, asking if we could help them out. When we told them we could deliver the next day, they were only expecting to receive a one-time delivery. We were able to add them for our monthly delivery and now supply 599 seniors with food bags.



Hit the Links and Help Feed the Hungry!

Get your foursome together – it's time for the 3rd Annual Hunger Scramble Golf Outing. Proceeds will benefit the Food Bank's Mobile Pantry Program - Friday, May 17, 2013, at Knollwood Country Club. \$100 per person or \$400 per foursome. Registration opens at 11 a.m. (with boxed lunch and preview of Auction items); 12:30 p.m. Scramble and dinner, awards and silent Auction beginning at 5:30 p.m. Registration deadline is May 10. Call (574) 232.9986 ext. 124.



Milt Lee, Food Bank executive director and his team during 2012 Hunger Scramble Golf Outing.