



# feeding MATTERS

a publication of the Food Bank of Northern Indiana

summer 2012

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## Agencies Now Able to Order Products Online Through Primarus Web Window

Primarius Web Window, an online food ordering system, is now available to the Food Bank's 185 member agencies. To implement this service, the Food Bank purchased a new server, licensing and software. This system will enable agencies to order in "real time" and when it's convenient for them, which may not necessarily take place during a typical work day. This new system will also enable agencies to view a photo of available items and know quantities available to purchase. In addition, agencies will be able to schedule their own pick-up and delivery times. Said Amanda Peterson, resource opportunity developer, "Online ordering through Primarius Web Window will help our agencies be more efficient with their time – time that can be spent better serving their clients."

This new service will also allow agencies to view statistics, including the number of households and individuals they serve and pounds of food distributed.

## Food Bank's Innovation Seed Center Sows the Seeds of Success

*Food Bank Collaborates with South Bend Unity Gardens to Nourish the Community*

*"People say New Yorkers don't work well together. Well just the other day I saw two guys sharing a cab. One guy took the tires and stereo, and the other guy took the engine."*  
~ David Letterman on Collaboration.

The Food Bank welcomed The Unity Gardens as a mission partner in January. The Unity Garden's mission of promoting community health dovetails nicely with the Food Bank's message that hunger is a community health issue.



*Growing a Healthier Community – Mitch Yaciw, gardens manager, Unity Gardens, Sara Stewart, executive director, Unity Gardens, and Milt Lee, executive director, The Food Bank.*

The Food Bank's Innovation Seed Center will serve as a classroom and office for Unity Gardens while they raise funds to build their new space at LaSalle Square in South Bend. Raised beds have been planted at the Food Bank, which will enable community members to have access to fresh produce. In addition, Unity Gardens hopes a greenhouse can be added to the Food Bank's property in order to provide individuals with access to year-round educational classes.

Noted Milt Lee, executive director, "To truly collaborate under the umbrella of a common mission is rare. Our Unity Gardens' leadership has defied the traditional, superfluous partner relationship. In this case 'money met mouth' and they have delivered exactly what they said they would." He added, "Ultimately this mission partnership will mean greater access to fresh vegetables, more opportunities for healthy eating education, and healthier communities. We couldn't be happier about this relationship."



*Tables and chairs offer the opportunity to spark conversation in the Food Bank's new Innovation Seed Center.*



*Food Bank's new Innovation Seed Center offers space for businesses and organizations to brainstorm and create!*



*The Innovation Seed Center offers computers.*

# FOOD FINDERS

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

Because of the steady rise of people seeking emergency food assistance, the business development department continues to actively seek and partner with local and national manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, food growers, packers and brokers to procure food.

Our store donation program operated through Sam's Club, Walmart, Kroger, Jewel, Target and Marsh, continues to play a huge role in providing edible food to feed the hungry. Fresh produce, meat and dairy products that are close to expiration are picked up by the Food Bank's trucks on a daily basis and then quickly distributed to our 185 partner agencies. As these organizations continue to be more "green," the variety of foods that once occupied our landfills can be shared with those in need. The Food Bank welcomes Aldi as our newest partner to the store donation program. With nine locations in our six-county service area, Aldi's provided nearly 12,000 lbs. during the first month of its store donation program.

Through FiSH, (Feeding Indiana's Hungry) our state association of food banks, the Food Bank is part of a collective sourcing group to share goods as well as collaborate on purchased product. This means that every monetary donation goes even further toward getting food to those who need it.

The business development team continues to pursue healthy foods and produce opportunities as it carries the Food Bank's message that hunger is a community health issue. Growers and processors continue to partner with us as we seek to provide nutritious

*continued on page 3*

## 1 Can Does Make a Difference 2012 Stamp Out Hunger Results in More Than 133,000 Pounds Collected in the Greater South Bend Community



*Member agency volunteers gearing up to "sweep" neighborhoods with letter carriers during the 2012 Stamp Out Hunger.*

Thank you to Kevin Strebinger, our National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) #330 food drive coordinator, who tirelessly works on the drive all year long – taking a week of vacation prior to the drive to ensure its success, the letter carriers in our community who volunteer to participate in this very important food drive for the Food Bank and the community, who generously donates each and every time we ask.

*Stamp Out Hunger* began in 1993 as an outreach in the community by the NALC. Since its inception, this drive has collected more than one billion pounds of food across the nation.

Nationally, *Stamp Out Hunger* is supported by the U.S. Postal Service, the National Rural Letter Carriers Association, the Campbell Soup Company, Feeding America, Val-Pak, the AFL-CIO, United Way of America and Uncle Bob's Self-Storage. Locally, Kroger's and Martin's Super Markets are strong supporters.

*Stamp Out Hunger* takes place on the second Saturday in May – next year's drive is May 11, 2013.



*Agency volunteers sort and unpack non-perishable donations.*

On Saturday, May 12, letter carriers all across the country and here in northern Indiana collected non-perishables during the 20th *Stamp Out Hunger*, the nation's largest one-day food drive and the Food Bank's largest food drive of the year. This year, *Stamp Out Hunger* collected 133,376 pounds of non-perishables. In 2011, 97,000 pounds were collected and in 2010, 104,000 pounds were collected.



*N.A.L.C.#330 Food Drive Coordinator, Kevin Strebinger.*



*Thanks to the National Association of Letter Carriers and the greater South Bend community – the 2012 Stamp Out Hunger collected over 133,000 pounds of non-perishables.*



*Kroger management volunteers unload and sort donations.*

## Elkhart Partners Collaborate With Food Bank Advocating for the Need

A new collaborative initiative with member agencies and the Food Bank was formed this year in Elkhart County. Called *Pantries and Kitchens United of Elkhart County*, this group comprises food pantries and soup kitchens who wish to work together to provide a single voice on the issue of alleviating hunger in Elkhart County. The group will educate and advocate about the need for food and food security for Elkhart County residents.

Partnered with the Food Bank and Santa's Pantry, a food and fundraising organization, charter members include: St. John's Episcopal Food Pantry, Guidance Ministries, Susanna's Kitchen, Christ's Commissary, and Harvest Basket. Said Jim Piechorowski, *Unity Team*, "Individually one may accomplish only so much. United we can leverage the strengths of each member to benefit the families we serve. Our alliance with the Food Bank of Northern Indiana will allow us to learn and capitalize on their proven skills." Added Jaime Owen, agency relations manager, Food Bank, "The Food Bank thanks the members of the *Unity Team* for their efforts in feeding the hungry in Elkhart County. This new, strong partnership will provide much-needed leadership to increase the amount of food available for individuals and families in need as Elkhart County continues to recover from the recession."

A kick-off food drive to benefit the *Unity Team* was held at Rapsody in Green in Elkhart in June. Additional drives will be held through the summer.

A ServSafe Training class was conducted in May at the Food Bank. Food Bank staff and some member agencies are required to complete this certification once every five years to remain in compliance with Feeding America. The Mishawaka Food Pantry, Stepping Stone Shelter, Marshall County Neighborhood Center, and Dismas House were awarded Food Bank scholarships to participate this year. In addition, annual TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) training was also held in May at Clay United Methodist Church in South Bend. This training is mandatory for food pantries and soup kitchens that receive the USDA government commodities and participate in the Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Regional meetings are held every month in Kosciusko, LaPorte and Marshall Counties. These meetings offer an opportunity to network, share challenges and triumphs and keep updated on the activities of the Food Bank.



*The Mobile Pantry Team working to fill the need.*

## Working with...

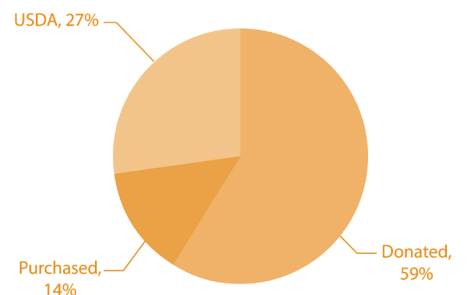
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food items for those in need. Sunrise Produce in Goshen continues to share their abundance; even though they are recovering from a devastating loss to their apple orchard due to the heavy freeze in the early spring. The procurement team has also expanded its geographical reach to acquire what we refer to as the "Hard Seven" – apples, cabbage, carrots, onions, oranges, potatoes and sweet potatoes. The Food Bank recently acquired and distributed over 40,000 lbs. of sweet potatoes and distributed nearly 10,000 lbs. of cabbage and onions. With Mother Nature's cooperation, we are looking forward to the growing season here in northern Indiana, and welcome the opportunity to work with growers who have promised to share a portion of their harvest. In addition, we continue to bid on produce through the CHOICE system through our partnership with Feeding America.

Our food rescue efforts continue to thrive by our continued partnerships with nationally recognized franchises, as well as with our affiliation with Food Rescue, Inc. of Noblesville and an owner of multiple Little Caesars locations in our service areas. From the program's inception in December 2010, over 39,000 pizzas have been received and distributed to member agencies.

## Food Acquisition

### SOURCES OF FOOD



Michael J. Ryan, Chairman  
Wells Fargo Bank, South Bend, Indiana

Todd Brown, Treasurer  
TCU, Granger, Indiana

Mark A. Norris, Secretary  
Better World Books, Mishawaka, Indiana

Curtis L. Bethel, Jr.  
1st Source Bank, South Bend, Indiana

Bruce L. Greenberg  
Family & Children's Center, Mishawaka, Indiana

Gerald (Jerry) Lutkus  
Barnes and Thornburg, South Bend, Indiana

John O'Brien  
WNDU TV, South Bend, Indiana

Chris Rowland  
Healy Group, South Bend, Indiana

Milt Lee, Executive Director  
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.*

**Share your time and talent with us. Volunteer at the Food Bank. In 2011, our volunteers provided more than 15,000 hours. Call (574) 232.9986 or visit [feedindiana.org](http://feedindiana.org).**

## EVENTS

### September is Hunger Action Month.

For more information about the Orange Ribbon Project, please call (574) 232.9986 ext. 124.

Stand in solidarity with those who face hunger insecurity – Wear Orange Day is Thursday, September 6.

### Mash the Creek

5.5 K and 10K Trail Races, will take place on Saturday, September 15, at Potato Creek State Park. These races will benefit the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program. For more information, including sponsorship opportunities, please call (574) 232.9986 ext. 124.

## Board of Directors

## PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### Food Bank Hits the Road With Mobile Pantry in an Effort to Bring Food Directly to Those in Need

Recognizing that not all households in need have access to food pantries in our six-county service area, the Food Bank has initiated a Mobile Pantry Program. Since March, the Food Bank has hit the road each week, distributing food in Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall and Starke Counties, delivering nutritious food directly to people in need of food assistance. Despite the fact that the Food Bank has 185 member agencies in its six-county service area, there are areas where the demand exceeds what is available and barriers due to hours of operation and lack of public transportation. Mobile food pantries enable the Food Bank to supplement the work of its member agencies and meet the growing demand.



*Patrons select items they need in Marshall County.*

At a pre-scheduled location, the Food Bank's mobile pantry team set up tables where people can "shop" and select items that best meet their needs. A typical mobile pantry offers fresh perishable items including produce, grains, dairy and protein, and lasts about two hours. The Food Bank works with member agencies in each county who communicate

information about the pantries to their clients. Said Amanda Peterson, community resource developer, "While this program is in its infancy, we have seen a tremendous response in the relief it has brought to the local pantries and clients served. We hope to grow this program and have a great impact in feeding the hungry."

To date, the Food Bank has conducted four mobile pantries in Elkhart County, distributing 30,558 pounds of food to 810 households/2,762 individuals; two mobile pantries in Kosciusko County, distributing 14,797 pounds of food to 368 households/1,147 individuals; two mobile pantries in LaPorte County, distributing 14,977 pounds of food to 150 households/540 individuals; two mobile pantries in Marshall County, distributing 15,135 pounds of food to 298 households/1,015 individuals; and two mobile pantries in Starke County, distributing 15,595 pounds of food to 319 households/1,093 individuals.



*Mobile pantries offer a variety of items for those in need.*



The Food Bank is looking for program support for the Mobile Pantry initiative. For more information, please call the Food Bank at (574) 232.9986 ext. 141.