



feeding MATTERS

a publication of the Food Bank of Northern Indiana

fall 2012

Lend Your Voice and Speak Out Against Hunger

September is Hunger Action Month

Hunger knows no age, color, gender or socio-economic status. Hunger in our community is real and affects our friends, colleagues, neighbors and family members. Those who struggle with hunger insecurity often do so in silence. In northern Indiana, 17% of the population struggles with hunger insecurity. Hunger is a silent epidemic.

The Food Bank, a member of Feeding America, is asking everyone to lend your voice and speak out against hunger during the month of September, Hunger Action Month.

Here's how you can lend your voice:

- Find Feeding America and 'like' them on Facebook. Then use the Food Finder application to find and 'like' the Food Bank of Northern Indiana.
- Check out the 30 Ways in 30 Days Calendar.
- Participate in the Orange Ribbon Project. During the month of September, display an orange ribbon in your office, lobby or business door to show solidarity for those who suffer from hunger insecurity.
- Go Orange! Wear something orange or Go Orange digitally through Feeding America's Facebook application.
- Invite your friends, family, business colleagues or neighbors to hold a food drive to benefit the Food Bank. Get creative – hold a breakfast foods drive, spaghetti dinner drive, personal care items drive. We can provide you with a collection barrel and will be happy to pick up your donation upon completion of your drive.
- Take a guided tour of the Food Bank and go behind-the-scenes of this organization that distributes nearly 6 million pounds of food annually in its six-county service area.
- Serve a meal at a soup kitchen, shelter or volunteer at the Food Bank or one of its 185 member agencies.
- Speak up for national nutrition programs by contacting your elected officials.
- Start a dialogue with family, friends, neighbors and colleagues to find solutions to help eradicate hunger in northern Indiana.

Need more ideas? Call (574) 232.9986 ext. 124. Lend your voice to mobilize our communities to fight to end hunger.



Display an orange ribbon on your door or in your lobby and lend your voice to speak out against hunger during the month of September.



The Power of Orange! Food Bank staff celebrating in their Hunger Action Month t-shirts.

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A MESSAGE FROM MILT



Milt Lee, Executive Director, Food Bank

THE FOOD BANK NEEDS YOU!

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

In 2011, our volunteers provided more than 15,000 hours.

Call (574) 232.9986 ext. 128.

One of my favorite movies of all time is *Raging Bull*. The movie focuses on the early and late career of a boxer named Jake LaMotta. LaMotta was the first fighter to challenge Sugar Ray Robinson who was a devastating puncher in the 1940s and 1950s. He is famous for being tough, and for standing up to hard hitters. But, the most interesting thing about him was his ability to stomach risk, and reinvent himself.

LaMotta struggled with anger issues, so he became a stand-up comic to make fun of himself. He also had social phobias, so he ran a night club to combat it. And, he later wrote a book exposing all his personal demons and missteps including a relationship with organized crime. He was in a constant mode of reinvention and innovation. It was a fight for his life, and the lives of the people he affected around him.

The lessons we try to learn, teach, and apply in service leadership are the same lessons Jake LaMotta either understood or learned late in life.....no matter how defeated you feel you have to keep standing. And, when there is nothing left. How do we reinvent ourselves for the long-haul? In our case we do it for others. And those people need us.

The Food Bank is in the 10th round of the fight, and is beginning to think about this reinvention. Many organizations should benefit from an approach that has the best interest of all our mission partners, agencies and the clients they serve. It will come with some hard punches, but if we learn and keep innovating together, we'll be standing together when the hunger fight has ended.

Milt Lee
Executive Director and CEO
Food Bank of Northern Indiana

Working with Retailers, Manufacturers and Growers to Feed the Hungry

Although the need for those seeking emergency food assistance has not risen quite as sharply in the last few months in northern Indiana, there is still a steady climb. The business development area of the Food Bank continues to aggressively seek food resources as we strive to address the community health issue of hunger and hunger insecurity. Through an increased awareness of our food resource partners, we are capturing more food – food that may have been disposed of because of mislabeling, seasonal issues, close to code, returns/refusals, or leftovers from fields. Instead of filling up landfills, more food is being distributed to those in need. Local and national manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, food growers and packers partner with us to help secure food for those in need.

Under the Wholesaler/Retailer area, our store donation program continues to expand. Partners, such as Walmart, Sam's Club, Kroger, Jewel/Osco, Target, Marsh, and Aldi consistently provide perishable as well as non-perishable food items for our communities who need it most. Produce, meat and dairy products that are close to code are picked up by the Food Bank's fleet of trucks on a daily basis and then quickly distributed to our partnering agencies. This area represents approximately 37% of the food acquired for distribution. Aldi recently added another location that will be part of our six-county service area. Additionally, another multiple-location wholesaler has been added to our list of donors to help combat hunger. We truly appreciate all that our store donation partners provide.

As much of the nation has been adversely affected by extreme weather conditions this year, growers and processors continue to partner with us as we seek to provide nutritious food items to those in need. We would like to thank one of our newest partners at Sweet Corn Charlie, located in Millersburg, Ind. By utilizing some innovative irrigation techniques, they have been able to produce some earlier crops and yield. They have already shared in their abundance with us. Through our membership in Feeding America as well as our participation in our state association of food banks FISH (Feeding Indiana's Hungry), we continue to expand our geographical reach in acquiring fresh produce. Nearly 100,000 lbs. of produce has been distributed through our network of agencies.



The recent donation of produce from Sweet Corn Charlie was quickly distributed to our member agencies.

We also want to welcome one of our newest food sources, Hoosiers Feeding the Hungry. Their mission is to provide nutritious protein to food banks and hunger relief organizations. With meat often the hardest commodity to procure and with higher associated costs, our new partnership that works with Farmers and Hunters, are helping us fight hunger "one pound at a time."

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

Food Bank Enrolls in Feeding America's Hunger in America 2014 Study

The Food Bank has enrolled in Feeding America's Hunger in America Study 2014. The Hunger in America Study is the only well-recognized and thoroughly scrutinized study of emergency food clients in the country, with a very high level of credibility with policymakers and donors. Each Food Bank member agency is surveyed and pantry and shelter clients are interviewed at agencies throughout our member network. Agency surveys will begin in the fall of 2012 and client interviews will be conducted early in 2013. Final results will be published early in 2014.

This study has been conducted quadrennially since 1993. The most recent installment, Hunger in America 2010, was based on more than 61,000 face-to-face client interviews and more than 37,000 surveys of local charitable agencies, capturing detailed information about who is in need of emergency food assistance and their circumstances, which, in turn, helps charitable feeding organizations develop programs that best support people in need. The results also better inform the public policy discourse so that federal nutrition programs can better serve those in need.

In addition to the Hunger in America study, the Food Bank is beginning a process of "tiering" our member agencies. Agency directors will be individually interviewed on such topics as service capacity and desire for agency growth, interest in supplying more nutritious products and how the Food Bank can assist the member agency in reaching their goals. We hope the combination of both the tiering project and the Hunger in America study will give us a better snapshot of our member agencies and the clients who use them.

Michael J. Ryan, Chairman
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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.

Board of Directors

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Teens Against Hunger

Advisory Board Will Advocate and Educate

Teens Against Hunger, an advisory board composed of high school student representatives from various northern Indiana high schools, will be launched in the fall of 2012. This dynamic board of prestigious students will plan, organize and host events to educate others and fight against hunger.

Food 4 Kids Fun Packs are Back!

New Name . . . Same Great Program!

Food 4 Kids Fun Packs are back! Beginning September 14, Fun Packs are filled with nutritious, kid-friendly foods that will go home weekly to more than 1,000 elementary school children in selected northern Indiana schools. Students receive their Fun Packs on Fridays. The selected schools are identified as having a high rate of children eligible for free/reduced lunch programs. The cost is only \$140 per school year to feed one innocent child. This emergency food assistance program is designed for students in grades K-6. Fun packs are free for eligible students and their families. The Food Bank began its Food 4 Kids Program in 2006. If you are interested in helping or sponsoring today's children, please contact the Food Bank at (800) 879.7040. Remember, the children you sponsor today are indeed tomorrow's future!



SAVE THE DATE

Presale Tickets now available for the
2nd Annual Santa Breakfast at Eddy Street Commons
at Brothers Bar & Grill on December 1st.

Call the Food Bank of Northern Indiana for more
information or to purchase your tickets today.
Tickets are \$5 per person.



**Join the fun for great cause! Santa Breakfast
proceeds will benefit the Food Bank. Call
(574) 232.9986 ext.124 for tickets.**

Mobile Pantries Distributions to Date

2012 Food Bank Mobile Pantry Results

County	# of Distributions	Pounds	Households	Individuals
Elkhart	6	45,270	1,276	4,323
Kosciusko	4	31,640	826	2,140
Marshall	4	32,431	665	2,074
Starke	4	29,809	819	2,106
LaPorte	3	23,383	637	2,145
TOTAL	21	162,533	4,223	12,788



In Starke County filling the need.



A recent mobile pantry in LaPorte County helping to feed the hungry.