

STUDENT HUNGER DRIVE

Building capacity. Developing leadership and business skills. Instilling a spirit of volunteerism and community. Showcasing compassion for those in need.

Now in its sixth year, the Student Hunger Drive of Northern Indiana has raised more than 500,000 pounds of food through can and monetary contributions. Participating area schools include Adams, Concord, The Crossing, Marian, Michigan City, New Prairie, Northwood, Penn, Riley and Washington High Schools.

With the help of a faculty advisor, student teams plan and promote the drive, organize their food collection, as well as package and deliver food to the Food Bank of Northern Indiana and local pantries. Students are recognized for their efforts at an awards party on the last day of the drive. Prizes are awarded for different levels of achievement and for the creativity of their events promoting the drive. All schools raising at least 2,000 pounds of food will receive participation funds, which may be used to offset Student Hunger Drive expenses, for other projects, or as donations to other non-profit agencies in their communities.

The Student Hunger Drive was founded in 1986 by Pete Pohlman, then President of Lujack's Autoplaza in the Quad Cities. For the first seven years of the Student Hunger Drive, Lujack's was the sole sponsor. The Student Hunger Drive, Inc. was created in 1993 as a non-profit 501c3 organization. In its inaugural year, the SHD Quad Cities resulted in 29,000 pounds of food. Last year, teens collected over 378,000 pounds of food. In all, Quad City teens have donated over 15 million pounds of food to the River Bend Foodbank in the past 30 years. The history of the Student Hunger Drive speaks for itself and the goal is to share this mission nationally one community at a time. In addition to the Quad Cities, the Student Hunger Drive is currently empowering teens and donating food in Charlotte, North Carolina and Northern Indiana.

The 2017 Student Hunger Drive of Northern Indiana began on September 28 and concluded on November 9.

Due to the production schedule of Feeding Matters, the 2017 Student Hunger Drive was ongoing.



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SOMETHING TO ACT ON

People often ask me about the clients we serve throughout our network of nearly 200 pantries and soup kitchens across northern Indiana.

More often than not, these are sincere questions from caring individuals who want to truly understand the problem of hunger and what they can do to make a real impact. Other times, it's apparent some are on a fishing expedition as they attempt to snag a word, phrase or statistic that they can dangle while poking holes in the idea of making an individual sacrifice of time or money.

Just as anyone evolves, so has my response over the years as I've grown to recognize the pattern from these folks. What I tell them I have discovered is... it's not just the idea of not knowing where one's next meal will come from, but it's the ignorance of those who take for granted the ease of which they waste meals, tout expensive specialty foods and chastise people who have fewer choices for choosing the less healthy options. You see, it's all about the dignity of your experiences. And when we strip those of their dignity during shopping experiences or conversations about food and access, we make it tougher for those folks to improve their lives around those issues.

This is why I am proud of our network of pantries and hot meal sites. They have all embraced the idea of client choice. Client choice means they will allow those who are struggling with accessing enough food for their families to pick foods they want and not mindlessly hand them a box of random food items. Of course, this means we must source a lot of food to keep our pantries stocked with a variety of items that can help families feel as "normal" as possible during what is often the most difficult times in their lives.

Mike Lee

Executive Director and CEO



AGENCY PARTNER NEWS

The Food Bank's partner soup kitchens, food pantries and shelters attended the Food Bank's Agency Conference on October 6. The purpose of the conference was networking, food safety training, civil rights training for TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) pantries and agencies and discussion of the new member agreement.

It has been several years since the Food Bank's member agreement has been amended and this new agreement more clearly lays out the expectations of Feeding America, the Food Bank and our donors on the community partner agencies. The Food Bank expects that discussions and the new agreement should help us all be more efficient and professional in our food distributions. Guest speakers included Karla Kretchmer, Elkhart County Health Department, who provided a refresher course in safe food handling, storage and distribution. We also welcomed Mychaela Brandle, campaign director, No Kid Hungry.

Congratulations go out to the partners who were awarded special recognition at the conference. Each of these organizations was nominated for an award by either clients or their peers. We were pleased to honor The Storehouse as Agency of the Year. Community Impact Awards went to Mary and Jerry's Helping Hands in Mentone, God's Highway to Heaven in Warsaw and LaCasa de Amistad in South Bend. Several volunteer of the year awards recognized those hard-working people who make what we do possible. Volunteer awards went to Mary Secrist of Mary and Jerry's Helping Hands; Dawn Braunecker of Bread of Life in Plymouth; Donnie Beliles of God's Highway to Heaven Food Pantry, Noah Woodcock of God's Highway to Heaven; Ruby Whiteman of St. Joseph Health Center in Plymouth; Mary Truax of Clay Church and Barb Conway of the Community Food Pantry of New Carlisle. It should be noted that volunteer Noah is only four years old and not only helps distribute food at his local pantry but also loves coming with his great-grandma to the Food Bank to help pick out the food for their clients. Just goes to show, you are never too young or too old to lend a hand! Thanks to all our award winners and all our community partner agencies for your tireless labors to feed the hungry in our community.



FOOD FINDERS

To meet the demand for emergency food assistance, the Food Bank actively seeks and partners 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 September 30, 2017, the Food Bank distributed 5,450,119 pounds of product.

New food donor partners include Archway in South Bend and INMAR in Indianapolis.

2017 Mobile Food Pantry Statistics

County	# of Distributions	Pounds	Individuals	Households
Elkhart	11	96,874	4,239	1,187
Kosciusko	3	20,731	642	183
LaPorte	14	118,702	5,708	1,662
Marshall	3	25,115	530	143
Starke	7	80,608	2,271	848
St. Joseph	2	27,133	1,258	316
TOTAL	40	369,163	14,648	4,339



Due to the production schedule of Feeding Matters, these numbers reflect mobile food pantries through September 30, 2017.

HOW WE DO IT

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

Currently, CSFP serves 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 of Northern Indiana. REAL Services delivers boxes to homebound clients. We also have drop sites at senior citizen apartment complexes including Chicago Trail Village in New Carlisle, Ahepo 60 Apartments/Generations Drive in South Bend, the 100 Center Hi Rise Apartments and Ahepo 100 Apartments/Merrifield Drive in Mishawaka.

In order to qualify for this 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 130% less of the federal poverty level. Thank you to the USDA and Indiana Department of Health for allowing us to participate in this valuable program for seniors.

Certification for this program takes place the first Monday of the month from 9 a.m. – Noon.

We've been given permission by the Indiana State Department of Health to provide boxes for all those who have been on the waiting list for the program. Since July, we've distributed between 550 and 600 boxes each month, allowing a few more patrons to receive the box of nutritious shelf stable products. We hope this means an increase in our caseload next year so that we can enroll more seniors in this program.



2017 Strike Out Hunger – Bob Hayden, General Manager, Jordan Automotive Group (left) presents Milt Lee, FBNI CEO and Executive Director, a check for Strike Out Hunger. Each time a South Bend Cubs pitcher struck out a player, a donation was made to the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program. Thanks to Joe Hart (right) and the South Bend Cubs for participating in this special promotion.

Food 4 Kids Backpack Program

Now in its 11th year in northern Indiana, the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program is an emergency food assistance program for students in grades K-6.

During the 2017-2018 school year, 2,200 students in 30 schools will participate in this important program. The Jordan Automotive Group has been the Food 4 Kids Backpack Program presenting sponsor since 2006.

This year, students will receive name brand foods including Campbell's (low sodium soups), Pepperidge Farm and General Mills.

Thank you to Container Services Corporation for donating the boxes for this program.

You can help a child have the nutritional skills 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 to educate low income diabetic and high blood pressure patients on nutrition and offer access to fresh produce and lean protein so they can create a healthier lifestyle.

We work with Saint Joseph Health System's Health in Action Program. Classes are provided in English and Spanish.

An investment of \$100 provides one client 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

Through September 2017, the Food Bank has distributed 75,833 pounds of food through this monthly program for seniors, age 60 and over.

Seniors receive a bag containing shelf stable items which help them stretch their monthly budget. The cost is \$8.00 per month to feed one senior. Call (574) 232.9986 ext. 137 for more information.



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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.

100% (\$101,374.00) [FY 2017] of total program costs for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) are financed with federal funds. TEFAP is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

food bank
OF NORTHERN INDIANA

MEMBER OF
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WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

It doesn't take a lot of time to make a big difference. Through September 7, 2018 volunteers provided 24,115 hours sorting, inspecting, packing, stacking, distributing and serving, these "warehouse warriors" fuel the Food Bank every day.

Julie Kavas, Hallmark Insurance Agent said, "I love the Food Bank of Northern Indiana. I have been volunteering for years. I first came to the Food Bank with my church and felt so good giving back to our community. I have since

continued to volunteer as it makes my heart so happy when I'm in the Community Food Pantry stocking the shelves and our community is there to get fed." She added, "I love seeing the kids get excited when they see donuts that they can get and I love seeing the older folks get excited about the fruit and bread they can select. I love living in a city who cares about their people. God has blessed me and I want to give back to our community showing Him I care about His people."

WE NEED YOU – volunteer opportunities are available Monday – Friday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday evening, the Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County, located on-site at the Food Bank is open from 2 p.m. – 6 p.m. Volunteer opportunities are available until 7 p.m.

For more information about volunteer opportunities, please call (574) 232.9986 ext. 137.

THANK YOU.

- **Bimbo Bakeries** awarded **Food 4 Kids Backpack Program \$10,000.00** in June 2017
- **Carris Reels** awarded **Community Food Pantry of New Carlisle \$1,500.00** in July 2017
- **Meijer's Simply Give Program** provided **\$4,640.00** in gift cards
- **Arcelor Mittal Grant** – **\$2,500.00** for the **Senior Nutrition Program**
- **Amazon Smile Spent More Program** – **\$36.46**
- **Great American Milk Drive** – **6,346 coupons** for a **free gallon of milk** from **Martin's Super Markets** and distributed to partner agencies in Elkhart, Kosciusko, Marshall and St. Joseph Counties.

HUNGER ACTION MONTH WINDUP

Special thanks to these partners who helped us "Go Orange" for hunger awareness throughout the month of September.

- ABC57 News, WNDU, WSBT/Fox Michiana news anchors and reporters sported the orange on Hunger Action Day. Thanks for the awesome live shots!
- Tapastrie dyed the fountain outside the Morris Performing Arts Center orange for Hunger Action Day.
- South Bend Brew Werks served Hunger Action Brown Ale, pairing our SOUL Coffee with a warm, malty brown ale throughout the month. A donation was made to the Food Bank for each Hunger Action Brown Ale purchased throughout the month.
- Eurofins Eaton Analytical Inc., Dr. Jeffrey S. Mader DDS, Osolo Elementary School and Summers Insurance Agency conducted Hunger Action Month food and funds drives.
- Thirty-four community leaders participated in our Hunger Action Hero Paper Plate Campaign on Facebook.
- Countless volunteer groups and individuals who assisted with sorting, packing and serving throughout the month of September.
- Community residents who wore orange in support of hunger awareness on Hunger Action Day and throughout the month.
- Conducted six Hunger Action Month mobile food pantries (one in each of our six counties) and distributed 51,758 pounds of product.

How can you lend your voice to speak out against hunger?



Host a Food Drive to Restock Our Warehouse Shelves This Holiday Season.

Our most needed items include: cereal, canned fruits and vegetables, canned tuna and chicken, macaroni and cheese, boxed dinner meals, canned soups and stews, pancake mix and syrup, peanut butter and jelly, spaghetti and spaghetti sauce. Call (574) 232.9986 ext. 124 for more information.

