



feeding MATTERS

a publication of the Food Bank of Northern Indiana

Spring 2014

Food Bank Celebrates 20 Years Feeding the Hungry with Anniversary Luncheon



Ruth Riley will serve as keynote speaker for the Food Bank's 20th Anniversary Luncheon.

In recognition of 20 years feeding the hungry throughout northern Indiana, the Food Bank will hold a 20th Anniversary Luncheon on Thursday, April 17, at the Gillespie Conference Center at the Hilton Garden Inn. Presented by Four Winds Casino Resort, the luncheon will feature keynote speaker Ruth Riley.

Ms. Riley is a professional basketball player for the Atlanta Dream, and is passionate about using the platform of sports to create awareness and promote social change. Ruth graduated with honors from University of Notre Dame with a B.A. in psychology. She has experienced success on every level, winning a NCAA Championship, two WNBA titles, and an Olympic Gold Medal.

Since her first year in the WNBA in 2001, she has worked tirelessly with the NBA/WNBA Cares programs nationally and abroad promoting education, youth and family development, and health-related initiatives. Ms. Riley spends her off-season as a spokesperson for the UN Foundation's Nothing But Nets malaria campaign, Share Our Strength's No Kid Hungry campaign, and the non-governmental organization Inspire Transformation that focuses on HIV/AIDS prevention and awareness in South Africa.

Luncheon tickets are \$50 per person or \$375 for a table of eight. For more information about the 20th Anniversary Luncheon and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Marijo Martinec, associate director, at (574) 232.9986 ext. 124 or mmartinec@feedingamerica.org.

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Throughout **2013**, more than **6,000 volunteers** donated nearly **19,000 hours** assisting in a variety of areas at the Food Bank including: sorting and repackaging donated food product, agency shopping area and warehouse support, clerical support, and assisting operations in the Community Food Pantry of St. Joseph County. Share your time and talent with us.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

North Liberty Church of Brethren

This group sought out a volunteer experience and since August 2013, 8-10 church members come each month, packing fun pack bags for the Food 4 Kids Program during four-hour shifts. In addition, they assist with special events.

Liberty Mutual

As part of the 'Serve With Liberty' initiative, team members from Liberty Mutual spend a week each spring at the Food Bank, providing 50-70 volunteers and assist in a variety of areas during three-hour shifts.

Woodforest Bank

Since 2012, each month 10-12 executive-level team members from Woodforest Bank roll up their sleeves throughout the Food Bank's warehouse assisting in a variety of capacities during a four-hour shift including assembling the Senior Bag Program.

Woodforest Bank team members sorting frozen products.



A MESSAGE FROM MILT



2013 represented a year of change for the Food Bank of Northern Indiana including many modifications in staffing. The “one big thing” we confirmed through experience is our core competencies remain our greatest strengths, and that is where our resources need to be placed. Excellence in logistics/distribution as well as volunteerism and agency relations will be our target for 2014 so that we add value to the service we provide to our incredible agency partners and donors.

Our 2014 plan supports a three-pronged approach by focusing on infrastructure as well as programs; more formal training for agency partners and volunteers as well as agency communications; and staff support to deliver signature experiences in these areas for all Food Bank stakeholders, especially our agency partners.

It is clear that one of our greatest assets is our agency partners. We will hire additional staff and update responsibilities to increase our personal visits three-fold in 2014. This will allow us to be more responsive and create a more value-added relationship with these pantries, emergency shelters and soup kitchens.

Our partners helped us deliver over six million pounds of food last year, which is an increase over our distribution in 2012, all under the threat of reduced funding for federal assistance programs and shrinking financial support from new donors.

Therefore, thank you to all those partners who worked so hard last year and thank you for the selfless work you’ll do in 2014.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Milt Lee'.

Milt Lee
Executive Director and CEO

“
Our partners helped us deliver
over six million pounds of food last
year, which is an increase over our
distribution in 2012.
”

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Senior Food Bag Program

In 2013, The Food Bank’s Senior Food Bag Program distributed 6,932 bags and 94,153 pounds of food to low-income seniors throughout northern Indiana. This supplemental food assistance really helps seniors who have limited financial resources which makes it difficult to sustain a healthy lifestyle.

Once a month, seniors receive a bag of shelf-stable items such as rice or dry beans, canned tuna or chicken, macaroni and cheese, canned vegetables, pasta and sauce, cereal, crackers, soups, bread and one frozen meat. Based on availability, fresh produce, snack items and personal care items are also included. Each bag weighs no more than seven pounds so they can be easily carried by the seniors who receive them.

An investment of \$13.65 provides one senior with one bag per month. **An investment of \$136.50 provides 10 seniors with one bag per month.** An investment of \$1,365.00 provides 100 seniors with one bag of food each month. If you are interested in providing program support, please call Theresa Thompson at (574) 232.9986 ext. 122.

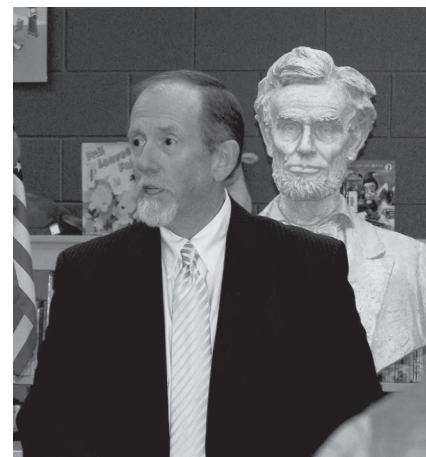
Food 4 Kids Fun Packs Program

During the 2013-2014 school year, the Food Bank’s Food 4 Kids Fun Packs Program is providing weekend food bags to 1,600 students in 25 schools in Elkhart, LaPorte, Starke and St. Joseph Counties. Eight new schools have been added this year with 400 additional students. The Fun Pack Program is free for eligible students.

Each week throughout the school year, participating students receive a bag that includes a meat, fruit, grain, breakfast item, snack and drink. The items are nutritious, kid-friendly, shelf-stable and ready to eat with little or no cooking (some items may need to be heated in a microwave).

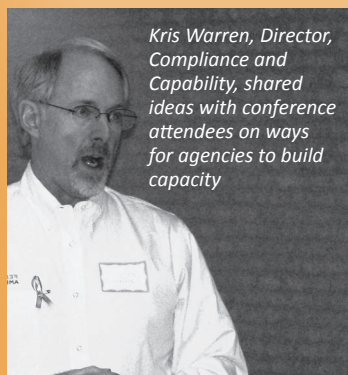
Sponsorship is critical to the sustainability of this program and work has begun on securing funding for the 2014-2015 school year. Help area students focus on learning instead of focusing on the pangs of hunger. **Your investment of \$140 will feed one child for the school year.** An investment of \$7,500 will feed approximately 50 children for one school year. Call (574) 232.9986 ext. 124 to learn more about the Food 4 Kids Program.

VP, Bob Hayden, talks about how The Jordan Automotive Group has been the Food 4 Kids Presenting Sponsor since 2009. Employees deliver Fun Packs to several schools each week.



AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

2014 Hunger in America Study



Kris Warren, Director, Compliance and Capability, shared ideas with conference attendees on ways for agencies to build capacity

The client survey section of the Hunger in America 2014 study was completed in Fall 2013. Nationally, 34,000 agencies were visited and 64,000 clients shared their stories. Throughout northern Indiana, collectors (Indiana University South Bend students and community members) visited over 100 of our member agencies and spoke to nearly 400 clients. For the first time, the client survey was conducted using tablets with touch screens and head phones. Results will be released in the spring.

The Food Bank's annual agency conference was held in September. Special guest speakers included: Kris Warren, Feeding America; Carolyn Smith, St. Joseph County Health Department; and Emily Weikert Bryant, FiSH (Feeding Indiana's Hungry.) Warren spoke about Feeding America and offered ideas for agencies to consider for capacity building. Smith, who previously served as CEO of the Gary, Ind., Food Bank, shared helpful food safety and storage tips. In addition, she recounted a very moving and personal story of her family having to use a food pantry. Emily Weikert Bryant provided SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program – formerly known as food stamps) information including tools for agencies to use in assisting their clients with the program's application process.

Long-time member agencies were recognized as part of the Food Bank's 20th anniversary. These agencies include: Mary and Jerry's Helping Hands; First Freewill Baptist Church; Stepping Stone Shelter; Fellowship Baptist Church; New Disciples Love Fellowship; First United Methodist Church (Michigan City); Family Christian Development Center; Prairie Camp; Guidance Ministries; The Window; Bread of Life Food Pantry; Bowen Center; Bourbon Helping Hands; Marshall County Neighborhood Center; Community Food Pantry of Bremen; Starke Community Services; Real Services; Salvation Army (South Bend); Hope Ministries; Life Treatment Center; Little Flower Catholic Church; Albright United Methodist Church; Clay United Methodist Church and Calvary Baptist Church. We thank these agencies and our entire network of agencies in our six-county service area for their commitment to the Food Bank and feeding the hungry throughout northern Indiana.

In addition, a letter from Bill Carnegie, President and CEO of the Community Food Bank of Southern Arizona and former executive director and founder of the Food Bank of Northern Indiana, was shared. Along with his congratulations, Carnegie shared funny stories of the early years of the Food Bank including driving a donated van with a door that would fall off every time there was a bump in the road. Driving challenges with the van were alleviated with duct tape. Carnegie's anecdotes reminded everyone just how far we've come!

Several new partner agencies were welcomed in 2013. They include: LaPorte Seventh Day Adventist Church, Pentecostal Church of God in LaPorte, Lakeville United Methodist Church, West Side Church of God, Holy Cross Catholic Church and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Knox.

The Agency Advisory Council, comprised of member agencies, continues to provide insightful advice to the Agency Relations team and their hard work is much appreciated!

Share your time and talent with us!

Volunteer at the Food Bank. In 2013, volunteers contributed nearly 19,000 hours to help feed the hungry. Call (574) 232.9986 ext.128 or visit feedindiana.org.

Working with Retailers, Manufacturers and Growers to Feed the Hungry

FOOD FINDERS

Because of the continued need of people seeking emergency food assistance, the Food Bank's resource development team continues to actively seek and partner with local and national manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, food growers, packers and brokers to procure food. We are grateful for the generous support through our store donation program with Walmart, Kroger, Meijer, Aldi, Target, Sam's Club, Marsh and Whole Foods. In 2013, new partners included Big Lots and Stanz Foods.

The Food Bank distributed more than 6 million pounds of product to our network of 170 active agencies in our six-county service area, as well as households through our Mobile Food Pantry Program.

In 2014, the Food Bank will continue working to gather more protein, produce and dairy as healthy options for our agencies and their clients.

2013 Mobile Pantry Statistics

County	# of Distributions	Pounds	Households	Individuals
Elkhart	8	51,283	1,288	4,762
Kosciusko	19	116,863	2,416	9,102
Marshall	12	75,987	2,026	7,427
Starke	11	57,777	1,302	4,776
LaPorte	14	87,303	1,666	6,269
St. Joe	17	116,927	2,088	7,508
TOTAL	81	506,140	10,786	39,844

Two times a week, the Food Bank hits the road in a pre-selected community to distribute fresh perishable items (dairy, grains, produce and protein) and dry goods free of charge to northern Indiana residents. Patrons can "shop" and select items that best meet their individual needs.

An investment of \$600 will underwrite a one-time food pantry in a community. An investment of \$7,200 will underwrite 12 mobile food pantries in a community. If you are interested in providing program support, please call (574) 232.9986 ext. 124.

Board of Directors 2014

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

Todd Brown, Treasurer
TCU, Granger, Indiana

Mark A. Norris, Secretary
Granger, Indiana

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

Jill R. Bodensteiner
University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana

John G. Bolstetter
Bravo Trailers, Bristol, Indiana

Kurt Meyer
Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, Mishawaka, Indiana

Angie Nelson
NIPSCO, South Bend, Indiana

John O'Brien
WNDU TV, South Bend, Indiana

Alex Redenius
Kroger Stores, Indianapolis, Indiana

Chris Rowland
Healy Group, South Bend, Indiana

Michael J. Ryan
Wells Fargo Bank, 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.

WE NEED YOU!

NALC Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

The nation's largest one-day food drive takes place on Saturday, May 10. This is also the Food Bank's largest food drive each year. **The Food Bank is looking for 200 people to volunteer for four-hour shifts to help the National Association of Letter Carriers collect food along mail routes throughout St. Joseph County.** Please contact Shelley Marker at (574) 232.9986 ext. 138 for additional details.

Diaper Bank



Summer program intern Madelyn Martinec partnered with area Kroger Stores & Growing Kids Learning Centers to conduct a kick-off diaper drive to benefit the Food Bank's Diaper Pantry.

In 2013, the Food Bank entered a partnership with the National Diaper Bank Network to become a diaper distribution facility in its six-county service area. Diapers cannot be purchased with SNAP benefits.

One out of three families struggles to buy diapers at a cost of up to \$150 each month per infant. Childcare requires parents to provide a day's supply of diapers. Babies without diapers are turned away from childcare, and parents without access to childcare often miss work. We distributed 291,653 diapers to low income households during our first year of operation. **We are always in need of all diaper sizes, especially sizes 1, 2 and 3.**

UPCOMING EVENTS

Food Bank 20th Anniversary Luncheon

Thursday, April 17

Gillespie Conference Center, South Bend.

22nd Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

Saturday, May 10

St. Joseph County.

4th Annual Hunger Scramble Golf Outing

Friday, May 16

Knollwood Country Club, Granger.

Hit the links and feed the hungry; \$100 per person or \$400 per foursome.

Call (574) 232.9986 ext. 124 or email mmartinec@feedingamerica.org with questions regarding any of these upcoming events.