



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

VOLUNTEER VIBES

Serving Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties

February 2019

WINK Feeds Families Hunger Walk — Our Signature Event — Raises \$329,877

The 11th **WINK Feeds Families Hunger Walk** was once again a smashing success for the Harry Chapin Food Bank! Thanks to more than 1,000 participants and 77 registered teams, the 2-mile walk at Miromar Outlets in Estero on Jan. 19 has raised to date \$329,877 — including a \$100,000 donation from Fuccillo Kia.

The Walk was presented by Bill Smith Appliances & Electronics and the Copperleaf Charitable Foundation. The Lee County Sheriff's Office was a lead sponsor and 7-Eleven a major sponsor. As they have for the past Walks, Panera Bread and Sun Harvest

Citrus were on site distributing refreshments.

An army of 60 volunteers helped with registration, T-shirt distribution, raffle assistance, and "Why I Walk" signage. Thank you all for answering the call!



Volunteers like former teacher Micheline LeBlank (near left) checked in walkers at registration tables (above), while the crowd got ready to walk (far left). LeBlank knows how important it is for kids in school to eat. "After they're fed, they can learn," she said.

SAVE the DATES...

- **Saturday, Feb. 23, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.: Let's Feed Lee.** Many hands make light work, so go online now and get on the volunteer schedule.
 - **Saturday, March 23, and Saturday, June 1, 9 to 11:30 a.m.: Family Volunteer Day in Fort Myers and Naples.** Fun activities help children and parents learn how the Harry Chapin Food Bank feeds those who are hungry in our community.
 - **Saturday, May 11: 27th Annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive.** We need lots of volunteers, so watch for more information in your e-mail inbox.
- To volunteer, call (239) 334-7007: Madeline Paniagua at ext. 141 or Todd Lewis at ext. 204.**



Dedicated Volunteers Deliver Results!

For every one of our achievements in 2018, the Harry Chapin Food Bank relied on our volunteer legions:

- Distributed 24 million pounds of food in our last fiscal year to 150-plus partner agencies in Southwest Florida.
- Held 737 mobile pantries and produce deliveries at 80 locations.
- Joined with the National Letter Carriers and United Way to deliver 273,649 pounds of food in the 26th annual Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive in Lee County.
- Launched the

Coastal Relief Campaign that helped emergency food pantries distribute 55,3700 pounds of food to 2,058 families during the toxic algae crisis.

None of this would have been possible without YOU! Thanks to all.



Volunteers from Amgen Oncology pack at the Naples warehouse.

This Number Tells A BIG Story...

Here's what your work for the Harry Chapin Food Bank means: All of the hours that our volunteers contribute in a year represent the equivalent of 20 full-time staff people. **You make a difference!**

Your financial support is always appreciated!

After You Sign up To Volunteer...

If you are sick or not feeling quite right (flu season)...please err on the side of caution and stay home. Notify us before your shift starts, so we can find a replacement. And if you have a scheduling conflict of any kind...let us know as soon as possible so we can fill your time slot. Thank you!

Snowbirds Help During Our Busiest Seasons

Southwest Florida's snowbirds are a great addition to our volunteer force!

Their timing is impeccable. Many started volunteering during the holiday season, when cars lined the Food Bank's Fort Myers and Naples warehouse lots to drop off a steady stream of 3,000 turkeys (525 from Naples).

Many more snowbirds arrived just as Florida's produce season ramped up. Between January and May, the Food Bank gets about two-thirds of the annual produce we distribute — thousands of pounds of nutritious peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, and squash.

Our snowbirds join with our year-round residents to do everything from packing produce and meats to mobile pantries (at left) and food drives. What a team!



Harry Chapin Food Bank OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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Fort Myers, Florida 33901

NAPLES:

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Naples, Florida 34104
Phone: (239) 334-7007

harrychapinfoodbank.org

Trinity Commercial Group's 3-Part Project At Food Bank for United Way Day of Caring

Trinity Commercial Group kicked off a powerhouse day at the Harry Chapin Food Bank, as 30 volunteers divided into groups (see photo) for a three-part United Way Day of Caring project.

- They prepared 240 bags of nutritious supplemental food for delivery to local seniors in need.

- They repackaged 750 pounds of bulk-bagged pinto beans for family-size meals.

- They distributed almost 3,969 pounds of food to 171 families at a mobile pantry at Franklin Park Elementary School.

"Our team had a wonderful time, and we are honored and humbled to be a small part of serving our communities through these fine non-profit agencies," said Doug Olson, principal managing director of Trinity Commercial Group.



'Why I Volunteer at the Food Bank...'

Sherrie Krzeminski: "I retired a few years ago, and after Hurricane Irma, I thought it would be worthwhile to volunteer. I love it! All the people I work with at the Fort Myers warehouse have fun and take pride in helping people. On Tuesday and Thursday mornings, we pack or sort meat and produce, plus I work at one mobile pantry a month. That's where you really know you're making a difference."



Nan McGoldrick: "After coming to Naples on and off for 40 years, we now live here part of the year. Since a volunteer day for my college alumni association four-and-a-half years ago, I've worked Tuesday mornings at the Naples warehouse, and I help at several mobile pantries a season. This volunteer work is important to me because no one should have to worry about how to feed their children."



CONTACT US TO VOLUNTEER, DONATE
or SCHEDULE A TOUR: (239) 334-7007

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