



### HOW YOU CAN HELP NOW

**Southwest Florida communities desperately need help! The Food Bank's new 6-week campaign to "Recover, Re-build, Restore" aims to raise \$500,000 between Sept. 25 and Nov. 1. With this funding, we can assist children, families and seniors in their recovery efforts. Remember, we can turn your \$1 donation into \$8 worth of food! So please be generous and donate whatever you can at [harrychapinfoodbank.org](http://harrychapinfoodbank.org).**

### More Than Ever...



Raising funds this coming year will be more critical than ever in delivering hunger relief not just after disasters, but year-round! So be there when the 10th annual **WINK Feeds Families Hunger Walk** returns to Miromar Outlet Mall in Estero on **Jan. 20, 2018**. Last year's signature event to benefit the Harry Chapin Food Bank raised \$321,600. "To raise money for this inspiring cause and see the impact it has on our community is worth your donation and your time," said Kayla Richmond, Hunger Walk chair and attorney at Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A." Start now to put your team together. Register at [harrychapinfoodbank.org](http://harrychapinfoodbank.org).

## Food Bank Delivers Disaster Relief

When disasters strike, the **Harry Chapin Food Bank** has almost 35 years of experience to tap. So before Hurricane Irma bore down on the Florida peninsula, the leadership team here was already preparing to help families, seniors and individuals most affected by this immense storm.

Working cooperatively with other relief organizations, the Food Bank quickly marshaled resources to distribute food, water and essential items directly to partner agencies in the communities most harmed.

**Monitoring the storm.** In advance of Irma's hit, daily conference calls between the Food Bank team and Feeding Florida, the state affiliate of 14 regional banks, focused on key actions to take depending on the storm's location, strength and impact.

**In the aftermath.** The Food Bank swung into immediate action. As truckloads of food and water arrived (some before the hurricane even hit), donations of water, canned food and nonperishable items from the public came in daily.

In the first days post-storm, staff and volunteers distributed emergency food and water to American Red Cross shelters in Lehigh Acres, Immokalee, LaBelle, Moore



*(Above) Grandmother Marcia hugs granddaughter Reina as victims of Hurricane Irma (below) line up at the Food Bank's mobile pantry distribution at Amigos Center in Immokalee.*

Haven, North Collier, Naples and Golden Gate, as well as agencies in Charlotte County and a pantry in Clewiston. Staff from an agency in Lee County picked up Meals Ready to Eat and snacks to feed 150 people sheltering there.

The Food Bank immediately ramped up its mobile pantry program, called "Fulfill," to bring food and water directly to communities reeling from Irma's destruction. *(See more on page 2.)*

This was just the beginning of the Food Bank's relief efforts. In the coming months, the Food Bank will help families with nutritious food as they attempt to put their lives and homes back together.

**Call (239) 334-7007  
now to donate  
or volunteer!**





# Harry Chapin Food Bank OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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Fort Myers, Florida 33901

**NAPLES:**  
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Naples, Florida 34104  
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[harrychapinfoodbank.org](http://harrychapinfoodbank.org)

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## In the Spirit of Helping

I was planning to write about Hunger Action Month, but Hurricane Irma had other plans. Right now, our friends and neighbors need our help. Thousands have sustained damage. Many are without water or power, while others have evacuated or remain in shelters. Food, water and ice are in short supply.

The Harry Chapin Food Bank has been busy responding. At this writing, we already have received 130-plus tons of relief supplies, which we've delivered to many neighborhoods — from Punta Gorda to Immokalee to Marco Island. We can react immediately, thanks to our almost 35 years of experience and with the support of our partner agencies, Federal Emergency Management Agency, State of Florida, American Red Cross, Salvation Army and our sister food banks.

Fred Rogers (of Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood) once said, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" Here at the Food Bank, we see that spirit of helping every day. If you can help, now is the time. We need food. We need volunteers. We especially need monetary donations, because we can turn a \$1 donation into \$8 worth of food. To support us, please go to [www.harrychapinfoodbank.org](http://www.harrychapinfoodbank.org) and thank you for being one of the "helpers"!



Richard LeBer, Harry Chapin Food Bank President and CEO

## Mobile Pantries Take Food to Communities

The Harry Chapin Food Bank's first **mobile pantry** for hurricane victims reached the Goodwill/Job Link in Lehigh Acres on Wednesday morning, Sept. 13. More than 300 families were served before the truck ran out of water, ice and Meals Ready to Eat. So another mobile pantry was set up that afternoon in the same location for another 500 families, with more food and water donated by the American Red Cross, Lee County Schools, Lee County Emergency Management, Suncoast Beverages and others.

Elected officials pitched in, including State Sen. Lizbeth

Benacquisto (who brought staff members), State Reps. Dane Eagle and Matt Caldwell, U.S. Rep. Francis Rooney, and Lee County Commissioner Brian Hamman.

The week after Irma, 21 semi-tractor-trailer trucks arrived, carrying water, MREs, Kellogg's products and U.S.

Department of Agriculture produce, rice and other foods. These were quickly distributed to partner agencies and directly to communities through the Food Bank's mobile pantry program, called "Full-fill." Many more mobile pantries were planned.



**OUR MISSION...** *To lead our community in the fight to end hunger.*

**OUR VISION...** *No one has to go hungry in our community.*

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

Look for us on:



A copy of the Food Bank's official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state. For more information, contact the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs at 1-800-435-7352 or visit [freshfromflorida.com](http://freshfromflorida.com).

## Programs Aim to Curb Senior Hunger

The Harry Chapin Food Bank is stepping up to deliver a total of \$1.1 million in food assistance to seniors who are at risk of hunger in three Southwest Florida counties.

About 2,200 seniors in Lee, Charlotte and Collier lost their participation — representing about a million pounds of food a year — in the **Commodity Supplemental Food Program** (CSFP) when the state reallocated this federal program, increasing participation in Glades and Hendry counties. The Food Bank was tasked with enrolling (through partner agencies) 1,173 seniors in these two counties in the CSFP program.

Now comes the challenge. To replicate the program for seniors who were dropped from CSFP, the Food Bank launched **Care & Share: Senior Feeding Campaign** in July. To pay for the program, which will continue to deliver



**Your donation can make a difference.**



food to seniors through 34 partner agencies, the Food Bank must raise \$700,000 to complement a \$400,000 grant from the state.

Early efforts have brought in \$114,983.16 in 700 gifts. It's a great start!

Just like with CSFP, Care & Share gives each senior a monthly "food kit" of two bags. That includes canned vegetables and fruit, grains, protein, juice, a block of cheese, and bread and produce when there is room on the delivery truck. The foods are bulk-shipped to the Food Bank, and volunteers knock-down the pallets to make up the "kits."

Started in July, Care & Share has been "overwhelmingly successful," said Kari Lefort, director of programs at the Food Bank. "Our partner agencies in Lee, Collier and Charlotte are excited to be able to continue serving seniors, now through this new program."

## 'State-of-the-Art' Collier Center Put to Work

After a summer of construction — and thankfully no damage from Hurricane Irma — the Harry Chapin Food Bank's new and expanded **Collier County Center** is expected to open this fall at 3940 Prospect Avenue in Naples.

This past fiscal year, which ended June 30, 2017, the Food Bank distributed 22.3 million pounds of food. Collier County received 4.8 million pounds, with one-third of that fresh produce. Of the county's 37,900 food-insecure people (11 percent of the population), 13,490 were children.

The 13,568-square-foot facility — more than triple the space previously used — enables the Food Bank to strengthen its presence and keep pace with community needs. Partner agencies in Collier now have more access to food, fresh produce and meats.

For example, a 10x30-foot refrigerated cooler holds 14 pallets and can store overnight the food it receives from daily retail rescue pick-up from 14 stores. This lets the Food Bank distribute to multiple partner agencies within the county.

Space is also available for new and expanded Food Bank programs, including Care & Share: Senior Feeding Campaign. And a large conference room in the front of the building will serve the community.

"This state-of-the-art center allows us to receive, pack and distribute more food in Collier County, narrowing the hunger gap," said Richard LeBer, Food Bank president and CEO. "We are looking forward to welcoming Collier agencies, staff and others in our community to gather and work together to help those in need."

**Donate easily and securely at [harrychapinfoodbank.org](http://harrychapinfoodbank.org)**

## Volunteers Jump in as...

One of the fastest means to get food directly to storm victims in their home community is the Harry Chapin Food Bank mobile pantry trucks. Volunteers quickly answered the Food Bank call for help. Some worked at the warehouse sorting, packing and loading food onto trucks. Other volunteers met the trucks at their destinations, helping to unload and distribute bags of food. (Below) Three generations of one family were at Parkside Elementary School in Naples: grandmother Maggie Diaz (center), daughter Natalie Diaz (right) and granddaughter Gianna Arroyo (left).



## ...Donations Pour in

People showed up at the Food Bank warehouse laden with bags of food, while local organizations and companies delivered funds and food for hurricane relief.

- The **Community Foundation of Collier County**, **Richard M. Schulze Foundation**, **United Way of Collier County**, and an anonymous donor gave \$75,000.
- **WINK's** radio stations hosted a food drive at Bell Tower, collecting more than 19,000 pounds.
- **Wawa** donated ice and **Aldi** donated food.
- **Angela and Mauricio Romy** from Chicago drove down a 26-foot truck of food and supplies.
- Students at a **school in Ohio** sent \$553.50.

# Delivering on Our Mission to Fight Hunger

Many hands pitched in to get water and food quickly to those whose lives were upended by Hurricane Irma.



*(Photos this page) Mobile pantries in Lehigh Acres, Immokalee and Naples just days after the storm passed. (Above) Food bags and water are piled high. (Near right, top) State Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto helping along with her staff. (Far right) Boxes of food overflow their tables. (Bottom right) People without power at home wait patiently for ice, food and other much-needed items.*

## Leaving a Legacy Is a Special Gift

Hurricanes like Irma are vivid reminders of how disasters destroy lives in a moment. A **planned gift** to the Harry Chapin Food Bank is a very special way to express your commitment to fighting hunger and need in Southwest Florida.

To learn more about legacy giving, contact Kelli King at (239) 334-7007 ext. 202 or [kellingking@harrychapinfoodbank.org](mailto:kellingking@harrychapinfoodbank.org).

**Season of Giving**  
 No time is right for  
 hunger, especially  
 not the holidays. So  
 please be generous.  
 this coming season.  
 Call 334-7007

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