



TREASURE COAST
FOOD BANK

2023

**ANNUAL
REPORT**



A Letter from Our CEO

Dear Friends,

As we reflect on the past year, I am humbled and inspired by the resilience and compassion demonstrated by our Treasure Coast Food Bank community. For over 35 years, we have stood as a beacon of hope, unwavering in our commitment to alleviating hunger on Florida's Treasure Coast. Today, as we navigate through unprecedented challenges, our mission remains steadfast, and our resolve has never been stronger.

The landscape of hunger has evolved, revealing the faces of vulnerability among those once considered stable. The harsh realities of soaring inflation, rising costs of living, and disruptions in the supply chain have forced neighbors who never imagined needing assistance to turn to Treasure Coast Food Bank for the first time. For others already grappling with financial strain, the choices between buying food or meeting essential needs like housing, medication, or childcare have become more frequent and agonizing. A staggering forty-five percent of our community is just one paycheck or financial emergency away from losing it all.

In the face of these profound challenges, Treasure Coast Food Bank has not only weathered the storm but has also seen significant growth and triumphs. This year has been a testament to our commitment to addressing the root causes of hunger and serving our community with innovative solutions.

Our commitment to reaching those in need with fresh and healthy food continued to expand. Expansion of the Market Fresh on the Move program has allowed us to bring fresh produce and essential groceries directly to communities that need it the most. This program also provides a critical SNAP retail access point, allowing neighbors to use their SNAP benefits to make purchases of low-cost, highly affordable healthy foods.

In our pursuit of empowering individuals to break the cycle of hunger, we expanded our Job Training programs. Through skill development and employment opportunities in the fields of Supply Chain and Commercial Trucking, Barista, Hospitality and Culinary Training, we provided more than 165 individuals with a new career path towards self-sufficiency.

Classes in Nutrition Education is newly launched and has been an important addition to our program services, helping families make healthier food choices living on a limited budget, thus improving their overall well-being and helping grocery-budgets stretch further during these trying times.

We are humbled and heartened by the increasing number of volunteers who have joined our cause. More than 10,000 volunteers dedicated 45,117 hours of service, which is equivalent to 23 full-time positions. Their time, dedication, and passion are invaluable to accomplishing our mission.

Our board and leadership team have outlined a plan to increase organizational capacity and impact on the community to realize our vision of a hunger-free Treasure Coast. This plan, supported by a \$30,000,000 capital campaign—Feed Unite Flourish—aims to make a profound impact on the future of our community—where no one struggles with hunger on the Treasure Coast.

Amidst these achievements, none of this would have been possible without the unwavering support of YOU - our dedicated partners, donors, and supporters. Your generosity and dedication have been the driving force behind our ability to serve 250,000 children, adults and seniors every week.

With your ongoing support, I am confident that we can continue to expand our reach, break the cycle of hunger, and provide opportunities for a brighter future for all those we serve. Thank you for being an integral part of the Treasure Coast Food Bank family. Together, we can change lives and forge a stronger, more resilient community. I look forward to the year ahead and the opportunities it brings to make an even greater impact.

With gratitude,

Increasing Clients Served & Volunteers

Our goal over the next 5 years is to increase food distribution by 76% and volunteer capacity by 50%. To meet this goal, a multi-faceted approach is vital. We plan to both expand our network of agency partners and work with current partners to increase their capacity to serve more clients. We will leverage social media and community outreach initiatives to raise awareness and attract new volunteers, who will contribute to the capacity building needed to expand the locations, frequency, and food product available through our direct service programs. We will also regularly assess our programs and adjust strategies to adapt to evolving community needs.

Expanding Produce Distribution

Fresh produce accounts for 46% of the food products we distribute to neighbors in our community. We currently work with many local farmers to secure a sustainable and diverse supply of fresh fruits and vegetables. We have forged new partnerships with the U.S Department of Agriculture and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services to increase the amount and variety of fresh produce we can procure. By increasing the locations and capacity of our agency partners and direct service programs, we will ensure the increase in product procured from these partnerships will be put into the communities where it is most needed.



PROGRAM INNOVATION

Market Fresh on the Move

Following his move across the world and recent retirement, Abraham started his search for volunteer opportunities to help his newfound community, the Treasure Coast. He found the best way to enrich the lives of his community members was by volunteering on the Market Fresh on the Move - a mobile grocery store that provides fresh produce, meats and dairy to neighbors with limited food budgets.

Abraham believes everyone deserves access to healthy food. That's why he arrives every Wednesday to begin his early morning route, delivering balanced meals to neighbors along the Treasure Coast. "Giving back is an opportunity for a blessing," Abraham says. Abraham is proud to help make it easier for families and individuals to access healthy food. Abraham says his service is an incredibly rewarding experience for him, enriching his life in ways he never expected. "Even if it is only giving back one time a month, it is more fulfilling than what you were recently doing," Abraham says encouraging anyone who can join him to help build a hunger-free Treasure Coast as a volunteer.



Making Fresh Food Accessible

We met local college student Andrea while she was picking out fresh vegetables at Treasure Coast Food Bank's Market Fresh on the Move. It was a routine she had been doing each week when the rolling grocery store makes its regular stop in her Fellsmere neighborhood. She lives with her parents, Jorge and Rosalia and her 17-year-old sister, Alejandra. Before Market Fresh on the Move began its weekly stops in Fellsmere her family often had struggled to afford healthy food.

"I usually load up on fresh vegetables for our family," she said. "With the higher cost of everything, I feel like I'm helping out my family so much."

Every week, Market Fresh on the Move makes regular stops throughout Indian River County, providing residents with reliable access to affordable nutritious food. In addition to produce, it provides meat, dairy and pantry staples.

"If it wasn't for this, many people would not have fresh, amazing food," she said.

Building Strong Communities Through Strategic Partnerships

Raquel recalls first visiting Mustard Seed's thrift store and food pantry, an agency partner of Treasure Coast Food Bank, to donate some items from her home.

Raquel works two jobs – as a doula and prenatal yoga instructor to support her three children. But lately, her income has been unstable, and the high cost of food has made it even more difficult to keep enough healthy food on the table.

Picking up groceries at the pantry has given Raquel relief, she says, knowing her family has fresh food for up to 10 days. “You have to let go of pride and ego in order to allow people to help you,” Raquel says encouraging her neighbors who may also be facing hunger. “Don’t be afraid to ask for help.”



Treasure Coast Food Bank partners with 300 agency partners on the Treasure Coast including schools, homeless shelters, health and wellness centers, soup kitchens, afterschool programs and more providing food and resources to more than 260,000 people every week.

Mobile Pantry Program

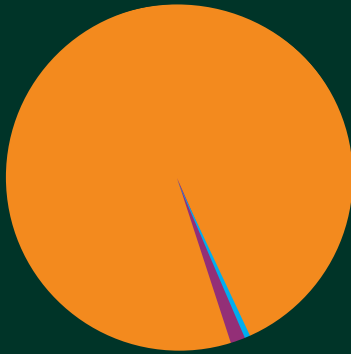


Norma Francis with Bella & Baby

Norma Francis, 69, is a veteran, mother and grandmother we met while she was attending Treasure Coast Food Bank's Mobile Pantry at Revelation Truth Church in Indian River County. Now retired from a long career in the Marine Corps, Norma lives in a retirement community with her cousin Carol, and they help each other make ends meet. She found out about the Mobile Pantry from her friend and has been utilizing the program for three months. She told us that hunger is prevalent in her community, “I personally have friends who are afraid to come and get food---& I tell them listen, there's no need to be embarrassed, you're hungry.”

Treasure Coast Food Bank's Mobile Pantry Program provides millions of pounds of fresh produce, meats, dairy and grocery items to our community members in need. This drive-thru model helps our neighbors seek food assistance quickly and discretely.

FINANCIAL REPORT



97%

Program Expenses

2%

General Admin & Mgmt

1%

Fundraising



give.org

SUPPORT & REVENUES

SUPPORT

Grants & Contributions	\$7,762,258
Social Enterprise Revenue	\$529,821
Donated Goods & Services	\$29,805,930
Other Income	\$85,273
Total Support and Revenues	\$38,183,282

EXPENSES

PROGRAM & SUPPORTING SERVICES

Program Expenses	\$35,086,795
General Administration & Management	\$765,532
Fundraising	\$406,402
Total Supporting Services	\$36,258,729
Total Expenses	\$36,258,729
Change in Net Assets	\$1,924,553

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

PROGRAM & SUPPORTING SERVICES

Total Assets	\$16,364,791
Total Liabilities	\$2,200,020

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted Net Assets	\$13,937,415
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$227,356
Total Net Assets	\$14,164,771
Total Liability Net Assets	\$16,364,791

Creating a
**HUNGER
FREE**
TREASURE COAST



**263,704
NEIGHBORS
SERVED**



**NEARLY
8 MILLION
LBS OF FRESH
FRUITS &
VEGETABLES
DISTRIBUTED**



**27,253,955
MEALS
PROVIDED**



**10,026
VOLUNTEERS
CONTRIBUTED
45,117
HOURS OF
SERVICE**

**MEALS
DELIVERED
TO HOMES
70,729**



Treating the Root Causes of Hunger



BARISTA TRAINING

Tim Formazol has always been interested in entrepreneurship and business. With his sights set on opening “The Chill Room”, which he described as an elevated kava and coffee café experience, he decided to enroll in Treasure Coast Food Bank’s Barista Training Program. He told us “Before, I had no idea about anything to do with coffee other than how to drink it.” After completing the program, which teaches students the fundamentals of coffee making, food safety, customer service and much more, Tim had all the tools necessary to open and operate his now busy and successful business. “By the time I left, I knew how to make coffee, all the prep work that came into it, and I understood it. It really helped us make good drinks here.”

CDL TRAINING PROGRAM



Jonathan Rivera is a 30-year-old hard-working father of 2. After moving to Florida from New York, he quickly found a job at a distribution center and was working there for 8 years when he heard about Treasure Coast Food Bank’s CDL Training Program through Facebook. Jonathan told us he had always thought about driving trucks and eagerly applied the same day he saw the ad. “I had never driven a tractor-trailer a day in my life.”

After completing the CDL Training Program and receiving his CDL License, Jonathan felt empowered and prepared to enter the workforce. The company that hired Jonathan for his current position felt he was so well prepared, they cut his training time down significantly. When asked what his favorite part of the program was, he told us “Giving back to my community. I come from a hard background, so I understand how things are. This is one of the best experiences ever, it’s helped me financially as well.” This year, Treasure Coast Food Bank’s Job Training Programs have had 155 graduates who now have the tools they need to succeed in their new careers.



Nutrition Education Program

Affording food on a limited income is difficult, and affording healthy food on a limited income is even harder. SNAP Nutrition Education is one of Treasure Coast Food Bank's newest programs and provides free nutrition classes throughout the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee County that include tips on eating healthy on a budget, portion sizes, reading labels, and how to include more nutritious food in your diet. In addition, the class includes an interactive cooking demonstration and food tasting for all participants.



"It [the class] was insightful and interactive. I definitely learned new recipes and ideas that I can use in my personal life. Very good gesture and I will definitely do it again."

2023 Class Participant

TCFB Nutrition Educators provided 166 in-person nutrition education classes to 1,026 participants through the SNAP-Ed Program (April 2023 -June 2023)



Case Management Services

Fannie, 70, is a Fort Pierce resident who has had her fair share of obstacles. After experiencing a heart attack, multiple strokes, and struggling with complications due to asthma, Fannie had to leave her job of 26 years. "When you are used to doing for yourself and you can't now...it's hard," She told us. While out walking in Fort Pierce, she stumbled upon Treasure Coast Food Bank's Your Plate Health & Wellness Center. This program provides comprehensive case management, referral coordination, benefits enrollment, and outreach services to people needing help like Fannie. She told us the Your Plate Program has helped her so much. "They are real nice and they explain stuff to you. I would recommend them to anybody."

More than 16,000 case management cases supported by Treasure Coast Food Bank's Case Management Team



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FUTURE PLANS

Treasure Coast Food Bank looks beyond simply providing emergency food assistance. The organization provides a person-centered approach that offers interventions that help pave a path from crisis to stability. Expanded health and nutrition programming will further improve health outcomes and lower costs of medical care through medical nutrition therapy, nutrition education programming, and a newly developed Medically Tailored Meals program, which is expected to launch in the fourth quarter of 2024.

Medically Tailored Meals *(coming soon):*

Food is medicine. Medically Tailored meals offer an additional layer of support and a continuum of care. Treasure Coast Food Bank will soon launch a new medically tailored meals pilot called FreshCareRx. This is an evidence-based program that is designed to improve health outcomes and lower costs of community medical care. As recent graduates of the National Food is Medicine Accelerator program, the organization looks forward to leveraging the Food Bank's production kitchen, Culinary Arts Academy, and partnerships with community health organizations to offer home delivery of scratch-made meals that are designed by a registered dietitian to meet individual dietary needs. The medically tailored meals intervention aims to serve individuals who are living with severe or chronic illness, require nutrition intervention, are high risk for frequent healthcare utilization, and are considered food insecure.



Park-it Market

With generous funding from Publix Super Market Charities, Treasure Coast Food Bank expanded direct services to neighbors! The Food Bank added a new temperature-controlled Park-it-Market mobile grocery store to their mobile distribution programming. The new Park-it-Market travels into rural communities along the Treasure Coast and Okeechobee County to provide consistent access to fresh produce, dairy, protein, and grocery items.

MISSION:

To alleviate hunger by obtaining and distributing food and other essentials in Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Okeechobee Counties.

VISION:

Provide nutritious food and improve the quality of health and wellness to those who are struggling with food insecurity on the Treasure Coast.

LEGACY:

Together, we have the power and the will to overcome challenges and ensure that every man, woman and child is fed.



StopHunger.org

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