



2024
Annual
Impact Report



JUDITH CRUZ
President and CEO

Dear Friends

For one in four residents on the Treasure Coast, hunger is not just a statistic—it's a daily struggle. The relentless rise in costs to live in Florida have pushed many of our neighbors to the brink. Seniors are forced to make tough choices to maintain a roof over their heads and food in their fridges. Children who should be looking forward to weekends worry about whether there will be enough to eat. Parents are skipping meals to ensure their kids are fed. These are not isolated stories; they are the stark reality for over 250,000 people who rely on the Treasure Coast Food Bank each week for healthy food and other vital services. The need is urgent, the challenge immense, but with our community of supporters, we are making a difference—together, we are feeding the Treasure Coast.

In the past year, our team distributed more than 55 million meals. Ensuring that families not only have enough to eat but also access to nutritious food - a cornerstone of our mission. Remarkably, 56% of the total food we served was fresh produce. Our partnerships with local farmers, ranchers, and retailers have been pivotal, enabling our access to fresh, local produce, dairy, and proteins. Programs such as Family Market, Market Fresh on the Move, and Mobile Pantry have made these fresh products accessible to many more neighbors, even in the most rural areas of our community. Additionally, our Job Training Programs help students with essential skills to secure employment in one of the many growing sectors on the Treasure Coast. Our team of Case Managers supported over 17,000 neighbors with assistance to critical community services, bridging the gap between household strain and financial relief.

While we celebrate these successes, we recognize that the need in our community remains profound. The cost of living continues to rise, putting even greater strain on families struggling to make ends meet. The number of individuals and families seeking our help has grown, a stark reminder that our work is far from over.

Looking ahead, I am confident about our future, I know with your continued support we can meet the challenges ahead and build a stronger, healthier community for all.

Thank you for standing with us.

With gratitude,





TOTAL MEALS SERVED
55 MILLION

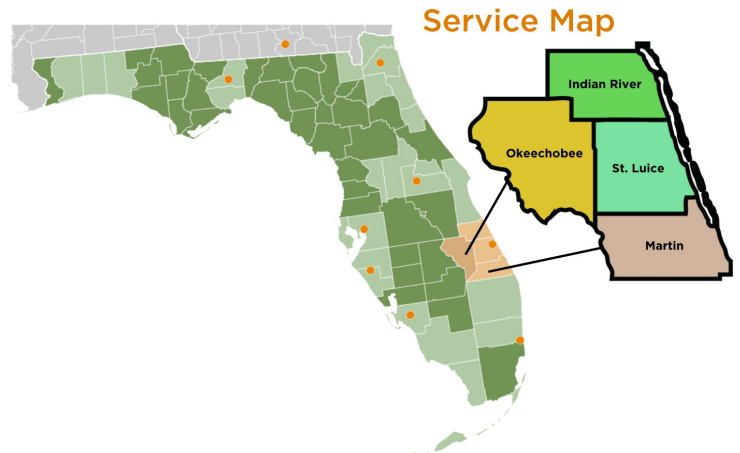
FRESH PRODUCE DISTRIBUTED
14.5 MILLION POUNDS

11,014 VOLUNTEERS PROVIDED
OVER 45,602 HOURS OF SERVICE



NEIGHBORS, INCLUDING CHILDREN, ARE FOOD INSECURE. WE CAN HELP.

Our goal over the next 5 years is to increase food distribution by 76% and volunteer capacity by 50%. In addition to distributing food and other household essentials, we aim to eliminate hunger by embarking on projects to expand solutions to increase access to healthy food and vital services. Through strong collaborations, partnerships, and 20 plus direct service programs, we are paving pathways from crisis to stability in our community.



TOGETHER, WE ARE FEEDING THE TREASURE COAST

**MOBILE PANTRY
PROGRAM MEALS
DISTRIBUTED
5,698,285**



WE MEET NEIGHBORS WHERE THEY ARE



Ryan Franklin, a 29-year-old single father, cherishes his life with his young daughter Ellie. Living with his mother, Laura, Ryan balances his part-time job in the food and pastry department at a nearby hospital with the responsibilities of parenthood. He told us it is tough to keep up with the high cost of living while trying to support his family.

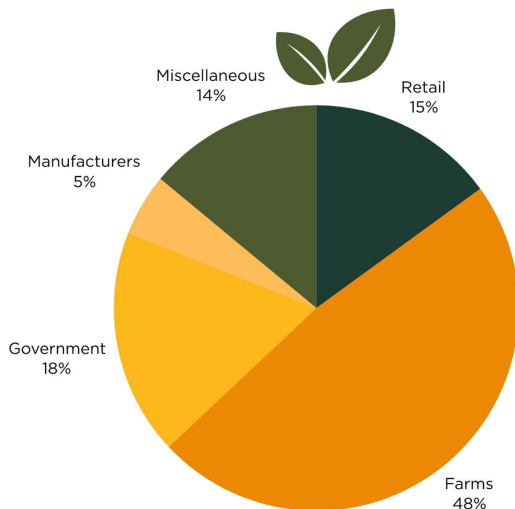
Ryan was in the process of returning to school to build a better life for his family when he found out he had cancer, which he has since overcome.

Through his hardships, Ryan and his family have had consistent access to healthy food every month through our mobile pantry distributions in Martin County. The fresh fruits, vegetables, meat, dairy, and other items he receives at the mobile pantry allow Ryan to focus on what truly matters: creating lasting memories with Ellie and building a brighter future for their family.

Our Mobile Pantries serve thousands of families experiencing hunger and food insecurity every month.

Food Sourcing

Food rescue is one of the many ways that we reduce food waste. We work closely with food donors, like grocery stores, local businesses, producers, manufacturers, farmers, and restaurants. Through these partnerships, we are able to secure food that is perfectly good but is close to its sell-by date, has cosmetic imperfections, or is simply not selling. By mobilizing these resources, we ensure that children, families, and seniors have consistent access to healthy food year-round.



We also work with our network of partners like Florida growers, producers, retailers, and manufacturers to purchase food to maximize our buying power and increase the variety of food items we have available for our neighbors. Elevated food prices, along with our commitment to purchase more to meet community needs, have impacted our operational expenses.



Summer Meals Program For Children

With incredible partners like Okeechobee Public Library, we have expanded our Summer Meals programming to offer families the opportunity to pick up multiple meals in one visit. This model helps to reduce transportation and other unique barriers that our neighbors who reside in rural areas are experiencing.

The library has become a central and accessible solution for hundreds of families. The program quickly expanded from serving 55 families per week to more than 100, demonstrating both the success of the program model and the community's need for additional support.

Sonya is the welcoming site supervisor at the library. Sonya shared, “With rising food costs, parents and guardians are feeling the stress of trying to provide enough for their families, and receiving a week’s worth of meals is quite the relief from that worry and creates more joy.”

Through this partnership, the Okeechobee Public Library has become a central location for meal support for families. This programming is complementary to the library’s robust services that focus on childhood literacy, education, and development.

Thousands of children along the Treasure Coast rely on free or reduced priced meals that are provided during the school year. For some, it’s the only meal they receive each day. Our summer meals programming focuses on nourishing children who are experiencing food insecurity during times when school-based nutrition programs are not available. Through our summer feeding site partnerships, we ensure that thousands of kids receive healthy meals and snacks all summer long.

**HEALTHY MEALS
FOR KIDS
43,710**



Sonya Chapa Summer Meals Program Site Supervisor - Okeechobee

“There were times when families came in to borrow a book or attend a story time and also left with meals for their kids. There was no fanfare or difficult paperwork, just a smile, a meal, and sometimes some stickers, which the kids enjoyed. Just another day at the library.”

- Sonya

NUTRITION EDUCATION FOR A BALANCED LIFE



Joseph - SNAP-Ed Nutrition Education Student

“I’ve learned a lot; this is what I needed to learn to treat some of my health conditions with diet. I’ve learned to balance things and make better choices.”

- Joseph

Our community partner, Welcome House, opens doors for adults in need of support. It is a place of rest and relaxation with programming that provides opportunities for social engagement and stability.

Joseph has been a participant of the Welcome House program for a year. We first met him through our SNAP Nutrition Education collaboration that offers Welcome House participants an opportunity to join a variety of nutrition education courses taught by our team of Nutrition Educators. Through these courses, Joseph learned how to prepare healthy meals that align with his budget and how to incorporate healthier meal choices into his daily routine.

Immediately, Joseph started noticing positive results on both his physical and mental health. Joseph explained, “Between nutrition education, therapy, and adding more physical activity, I feel better- I’ve lost 25 pounds.”

This is a testament to Joseph’s commitment and what can be achieved by pairing our SNAP Education curriculum and interactive workshops with community-based programming established through our agency partners, like Welcome House.

The nutrition education classes provide practical advice on meal planning, food budgeting, meal preparation, engaging cooking demonstrations, and sharing of healthy meal recipes that include low-cost food ingredients. Joseph’s transformation was more than physical; he described his experience as an entire shift in his health and well-being. Joseph’s story is an inspiration that demonstrates that with access to creative community resources, meaningful change is possible.

SNAP-Ed

In partnership with Florida Nutrition Education, Treasure Coast Food Bank offers nutrition education classes to help SNAP-eligible Florida residents incorporate more nutritious foods into their diet, adopt an active lifestyle, and improve their quality of life.

The program provides free nutrition education classes in St. Lucie, Indian River, Martin and Okeechobee counties.

Nutrition Education Course Topics Include:

- Shopping and cooking healthy on a budget
- How to read nutrition labels
- How to reduce fat, sugar, and sodium
- How to eat more whole foods
- Healthy portion and serving sizes
- Recognizing diabetes risk factors
- Improving and maintaining a healthy gut



**NUMBER of SNAP-Ed
CLASSES**

402

**NUMBER of
NEIGHBORS REACHED**

4,030





NOURISHING COMMUNITIES

We are committed to nutrition and community health, having seen firsthand the significant connection between consistent intake of nutritious food and positive health outcomes.

Through our work, it has become clear that providing access to quality, healthy food is a powerful medicine that has the ability to improve health.

Our FreshCareRX program is our latest evidence-based intervention, providing life-sustaining, scratch-made, medically tailored meals; medical nutrition therapy; nutrition counseling; education; and referrals to wraparound services for neighbors experiencing chronic or acute illness.

Our team sees firsthand the hardships of people facing both hunger and health challenges on a daily basis. This past year, we graduated and became members of the nationally recognized Food is Medicine Coalition Accelerator Project.



For the past 15 years, we have prioritized cross-sector collaboration with community partners in nutrition and healthcare to create a holistic hunger-relief model and to support community organizations in distributing healthy food to our neighbors.

Through these partnerships and program innovations, we have significantly elevated the nutritional content of all food distributions and improved evaluation methods to measure clients' health progress.

By infusing nutrition education across all programming, helping agency partners build capacity to grow, and adding SNAP outreach and education throughout agency and direct service programming, the organization has made great headway to stabilize food security for those served while also improving health outcomes.

We are also collaborating with community health partners to expand universal food security screening among patients and streamlined access to our services. This proactive approach helps to identify neighbors facing barriers to accessing food and resources, allowing direct referrals to crucial Food Bank services such as case management, benefits assistance, nutrition education, food assistance, medically tailored meals, etc.

We are looking forward to continuing to expand these efforts. Our goal is to end hunger and improve health outcomes in our community, but we know we can't do it alone. We invite individuals and organizations to join us in the crucial work. Together, we can transform the health and well-being of the Treasure Coast community, ensuring that everyone has not just enough food, but the right food, to live a healthy and vibrant life.

CARE AND CONNECTION

Meet the Cua Family

Maria, a young and resilient mother, is a Stuart local who puts the well-being of her family above all else. In addition to raising her two sons, Jose (8) and Luis (7), she also received custody of her three nieces, aged 17, 15, and 12, in 2019 and has provided all the children with a safe and loving home.

Maria balances a part-time job with her many duties as a mother of five but finds it difficult to keep up with the family's bills with the high cost of living. Maria took the initiative to look for resources for her family and discovered

our Whole Child Connection program. Over the past few years, Whole Child Connection has been a lifeline, helping her renew SNAP and Medicaid benefits and also giving her and her children consistent access to hygiene items, healthy meals, holiday toy assistance, and more.

Maria's love and determination shine through in every step she takes. With us by her side, she ensures her family is cared for and supported as they live and grow together.



The Cua Family - Martin County Neighbors

**NEIGHBOR
EXPERIENCE
PROGRAMS
REACH**

**FAMILIES
9,509**

**CHILDREN
7,879**

25 YEARS OF SERVICE



Kent Evans - Food Pantry Coordinator

For 25 years, the Food Pantry of Okeechobee Church of God has been a steadfast partner with Treasure Coast Food Bank, exemplifying the spirit of community and transformation. Nestled in the heart of Okeechobee, this church has become a vital hub for supporting local families.

Founded in 1998 and currently led by the dedicated Kent Evans, the pantry plays a crucial role in addressing community needs. Kent says, "I go way back with the food bank, and it makes me feel good to know and work with them. Together, we've been able to meet the needs of families in Okeechobee. Feeding the hungry is one of the most important things to me."

The pantry not only provides essential nourishment but also fosters personal growth. Many who initially came for assistance have returned as volunteers, driven by the compassion they received. Sheila and her grandchildren, Jennifer and David, are prime examples of this cycle of giving back. Sheila shared, "Mr. Kent, this pantry, and the other volunteers were here for me. Now that we all volunteer, it is beautiful to be part of and give back to such a supportive community."

Beyond the pantry, Okeechobee Church of God serves as a community epicenter. It offers comprehensive child care services and hosts a range of engaging activities, from educational programs to fun events, fostering overall community well-being.

The lasting partnership between the Food Pantry of Okeechobee Church of God and Treasure Coast Food Bank exemplifies our shared commitment to empowering and uplifting our neighbors.



Jennifer & David Dougan, Sheila Brown - Food Pantry Volunteers

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LOGAN **WELLMEIER**

NEW DIRECTOR AS OF FY 2024

JUDITH **CRUZ**

PRESIDENT & CEO

ED **SKVARCH**

DIRECTOR RETIRED

SCOTT **BASS**

DIRECTOR RETIRED



SUPPORT & REVENUES

SUPPORT

Capital Campaign Revenue.....	\$1,862,842
Grants and Contributions.....	\$6,841,131
Donated Goods and Services.....	\$44,576,427

REVENUES

Social Enterprise Revenue.....	\$631,773
Other Income.....	\$4,504,378
Total Support and Revenues.....	\$58,416,551

EXPENSES

PROGRAM & SUPPORTING SERVICES

Program Expenses.....	\$54,522,446
General Administration & Management.....	\$920,823
Fundraising.....	\$614,829
Total Supporting Services.....	\$56,058,098
Total Expenses.....	\$56,058,098
Change in Net Assets.....	\$2,358,453

BALANCE SHEET

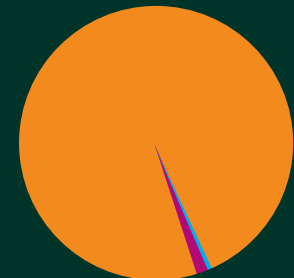
PROGRAM & SUPPORTING SERVICES

Total Assets.....	\$20,208,875
Total Liabilities.....	\$3,685,651

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted Net Assets.....	\$16,046,357
Temporarily Restricted Net Assets.....	\$476,867
Total Net Assets.....	\$16,523,224
Total Liability Net Assets.....	\$20,208,875

FINANCIAL REPORT



97%

Program Expenses

2%

General Admin & Mgmt

1%

Fundraising



ACCREDITED
CHARITY

give.org

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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