

Food first

Inspiring Hope, Feeding Families



World Mission Society Church of God collected over 7,500 pounds of food in seven days.

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A NOTE FROM KAREN

Dear Friends,

Summer will soon be upon us. That means that children will be out of school. Most will enjoy this time away from the classroom, but for many, it will be a time of anxiousness -- of not knowing when they will have their next meal. Last year only 13% of the children who received free meals during the school year participated in the USDA's Summer Food Service Program, where they can receive free breakfasts, lunches, and/or suppers, along with enrichment activities. As a SFSP sponsor, the Foodbank is working diligently to ensure that this percentage increases this summer and that any child who needs a meal can find a neighborhood site open for them. Our partner agencies across the greater Peninsula and our mobile food pantries provide additional opportunities for children and their families to bridge the hunger gap between school years.

Food insecurity remains a challenge faced by too many Peninsula residents. Map the Meal Gap 2017, the latest report by Feeding America® on food insecurity and the cost of food at both the city/county and congressional district level, was recently released. Locally, this study reveals that food insecurity continues to exist in every city and county in the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank's service area. Overall food insecurity ranges from a low of 5.7% percent of the population in Poquoson up to 18% percent in Hampton. The average rate across the greater Peninsula is 14% compared to a state average of 11.2%.

The study also finds that people currently facing hunger are falling further behind as they continue to struggle to buy enough food to meet their needs. Food insecure individuals now face, on average, an annual food budget shortfall of \$935 — 3% higher than last year. Although our economy is showing signs of improvement, there are still many of our neighbors whom this recovery has not reached and who don't have nutritious food for their families.

Individuals, charities, businesses, and government all have a role in ending hunger. We are grateful for all the support from our community as we continue to provide food for today and solutions for hunger tomorrow.

With thanks,

Karen L. Joyner

Karen L. Joyner
Chief Executive Officer

SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAMS: Going Mobile to Reach More Children

Summer always presents a serious challenge to meet child hunger needs. Without school breakfast or lunch programs and access to structured afterschool programs like Kids Cafe, many Peninsula children face poor nutrition options and hunger. “The lack of access to those meals means our children are spending their summer days thinking about food instead of enjoying everyday summer activities and adventures,” said Jacquelyn Linder, Nutrition Programs Director. Now the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank is taking one more step toward the goal of hunger-free summers. For the very first time we are “going mobile” so we can bring prepared meals to hungry children where they live.

Last summer the Foodbank’s Culinary Training Program students prepared nutritious meals for approximately 600 children each weekday for the 10-week program. Three Foodbank trucks delivered those meals to 18 Peninsula sites managed by community partners who serve the food and engage children in enrichment activities under the USDA Summer Food Service Program. But not every hungry child can get to one of the Peninsula’s fixed feeding locations.

We have completely retrofitted a Foodbank truck that complies with all safety and sanitation regulations so we will be able to serve food from the truck rather than drop it off at a managed site. A generous grant award from the Conagra Brands Foundation is funding the retrofitting expenses. The newly

retrofitted mobile food truck will allow us to provide direct meal service every day during the week at three neighborhood locations known to have high numbers of eligible children that are unable to visit an existing site. These locations are The Towers Apartments in Newport News, Regency Square Apartments in Newport News, and Circle Mobile Home Park in Newport News. This will increase the number of feeding locations from 18 to 21 and the number of children served to almost 1,000.

In addition, our own hometown hero, Chicago Bears NFL player B.W. Webb, will be back again this year to kick off the summer feeding program. B.W. Webb grew up on the Peninsula and attended the College of William and Mary. He will meet and talk with children at summer feeding sites with his inspirational message of hope.

We are very excited about expanding our ability to reach more children during the critical summer nutrition gap. This first mobile food truck represents a permanent and meaningful expansion of our capacity to reach the Peninsula’s most vulnerable populations where they live.

Full program details, locations, and eligibility requirements can be found under the Programs tab of the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank website at hrfoodbank.org/programs.

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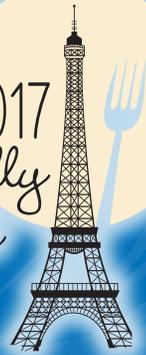


The Peninsula's Premier Food Tasting Event



Thank You, Sponsors

2017
Tastefully
Yours



- ALDI
- Boardwalk Photo Booth
- BreakThru Beverage Group
- Coliseum Central
- Colonial DJs
- Dunmar Exhibit Services
- Oyster Pointer
- PepsiCo
- PSAV
- Riverside Paper Supply
- SignMedia Inc
- Sinclair Communications
- Terry E. & Patti L. Hall
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- Towne Insurance

An Event to Benefit the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank

"This was Weinstein Properties' first year sponsoring Tastefully Yours, and we had such a great time at the event. It was even more gratifying to know that an enjoyable evening of food and entertainment makes an immense impact on those who are facing hunger in our community."

Allison Weinstein,
Co-President and Chief Executive Officer
Weinstein Properties



Tastefully Yours 2017

The 24th annual Tastefully Yours brought a bit of Paris to Hampton Roads! People enjoyed delicious entrees, appetizers, desserts, and drinks from our generous restaurant participants.

Everyone was able to enjoy the live jazz sounds of Forte, danced along to music provided by Colonial DJs, networked with local colleagues and neighbors, and some took home a caricature of themselves as a souvenir for the night. We are thrilled that everyone enjoys this event, but the most important impact of the evening is that it allows us to feed those who may otherwise not have enough to eat.

Thanks to all of our sponsors and attendees, this event will allow us to provide over 620,000 meals across the greater Peninsula.



"We all have a stake in our community and our neighbors in need rely on local nonprofits like the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank. Ferguson is proud to serve as a longtime community partner of the Foodbank and the work it is doing to feed the 1 in 7 Virginians who struggle with hunger."

Melissa Hazelwood
Ferguson Cares Manager



"We are so honored to be a part of this incredible event every year. Tastefully Yours is something we always look forward to, not only as an opportunity to showcase the amazing work of our Chef and his culinary team, but as a chance to help make a difference in our community and help those in need."

Chef Kyle Fowlkes and Ashley Beckman,
Event Administrative Assistant,
Cyprus Grille at Embassy Suite



"BayPort Credit Union is proud to be a major sponsor of the Foodbank's annual Tastefully Yours event. The Foodbank's mission to provide for local residents resonates with our credit union philosophy of 'People Helping People.' BayPort's hands-on involvement in helping with ticket sales, event set-up, and event registration furthers our commitment to this great cause."

George R. Dudley, Jr.
President/CEO



"As a chef, I want to make sure I can help our community when it comes to people being fed. Donating to the Foodbank is the best way to make sure people get reached."

Chef Kenny,
Owner, Fin Seafood



WHY WE VOLUNTEER

It all began with one question:

“What are you doing to keep busy in retirement?”

Damodar and Manjula Ambur decided to immerse themselves in volunteerism in support of the Hampton Roads Community. As leaders in the Indian American community, they have also inspired others to become involved. Over the years, they have consistently supported the Foodbank.

The Foodbank is currently blessed to have the regular support of several families from the Indian American community. They shared with us the motivation for their volunteer efforts:

Why did you decide to support the Foodbank specifically?

Damodar and Manjula: Food donation is considered one of the noblest of donations in the Indian culture. The Foodbank supports both schools and seniors that are in need by collecting and distributing food in an effective system with significant volunteer involvement. This aligns well with our desire to help both the young and old.

“If I can do even this small thing to make sure some don’t have to struggle, it’s worth it.”

Ravi and Prafulla: The Foodbank’s dedication to addressing the societal issues of hunger, malnutrition, and poverty. These themes resonate strongly with our heart.

Namita: I felt like I wanted to give back to the community. I had the time. My father volunteers at a Foodbank in Chicago. With his encouragement and having other family members already involved, I began to volunteer with the Foodbank.

What surprised/inspired you about the Foodbank?

Damodar and Manjula: The scope of Foodbank efforts to solicit and collect food and funds from a large network of donors in the community. They conduct their operations with a predominantly volunteer workforce. We are surprised that in the richest country in the world there are still so many in need of donated food.

Ravi and Prafulla: The Foodbank embodies within its character a most noble purpose, namely directly tackling the issue of food on the table for a large swath of the ‘have nots’, the needy, and the vulnerable in the society.



L to R: Ravi & Prafulla Shenoy, Damodar & Manjula Ambur, Raj Shenoy, Namita Kamath

Do you feel you are making a positive impact on the community?

Ravi and Prafulla: We feel happy that we are attempting to connect ourselves strongly with our community in a way that provides both a meaning and a purpose to our lives.

Namita: I’m glad to be a part of the process. Food is an essential part of our lives. It’s hard to imagine not having it or knowing where it’s going to come from. If I can do even this small thing to make sure some don’t have to struggle, it’s worth it.

What is your favorite thing about volunteering?

Damodar and Manjula: Seeing recipient’s happiness when they get the food items they like. Meeting and knowing people from all age groups who volunteer at the Foodbank despite their personal challenges. We are mutually dependent and we need to reach out to help each other.

Ravi and Prafulla: Getting to meet and rub shoulders with a wonderful bunch of co-volunteers!

Namita: Every day at the Foodbank is a little different, even while performing the same tasks. The day is always interesting.

Seeking Opportunities, Making An Impact

Mike and Bernadette Nugent have been described by Agency Services Director Katie Patrick as “enthusiastic, energetic” individuals who are always willing to “jump through hurdles” to help our hunger relief efforts at the Foodbank. They began as community volunteers for our Backpack Program at Forrest Elementary School in Hampton, but they had a drive to do even more. Soon, they had joined with one of our community partner agencies, The Salvation Army – Hampton, and took the initiative to obtain Safe Food Handling Training so that they could utilize the shopping floor at our facility to provide food items for hungry families at Forrest Elementary. When they become aware of a family that needs food, they meet the need. On their own, they also raised money to purchase hams to distribute to families over the holidays at their adopted elementary school.

When our Mobile Food Pantry Program site at our local VA Medical Center had to be discontinued due to logistical concerns, Mike Nugent, a veteran himself,

single-handedly started the process of getting that pantry site up and running again. He wrote letters and contacted the appropriate VA leadership, bringing attention to the need for food assistance for our veterans and their families. He was instrumental in reaching solutions to the concerns that had existed prior. Thanks to the efforts he started, we are elated to return to the VA Medical Center, serving over 200 families there each month. Mike and Bernadette Nugent are always right there volunteering to distribute food at the pantry they helped reinstate.

Volunteers like Mike and Bernadette Nugent bring the willingness to work in a team with our agencies, combined with the passion for providing leadership when challenges and obstacles arrive. They help our current programs succeed, but they also chart new territory by developing new ways to reach people. Any task we ask them to do as part of a group or on their own, they will graciously accept. Their contributions make a tangible impact.



L to R: Bernadette Nugent, Agency Services Director Katie Patrick, Mike Nugent

Hunger Among Seniors—A Need We Must Address

Senior citizens comprise a population whose struggles with hunger sometimes remain invisible. Many seniors live on a fixed income and must make difficult choices between food and other basic necessities such as shelter, transportation, or medicine. Access to nutritious food is often scarce because processed, unhealthy food items traditionally cost less. While attempting to live independently, manage and prevent chronic health conditions, and make spending decisions on a limited budget, these seniors confront the challenge of food insecurity daily. They need our help.

At the Foodbank, approximately 19% of all people we serve are senior citizens, and our commitment to them is strong and unwavering. Our Mobile Food Pantry Program currently includes 12 pantry distribution sites located at low-income



senior living apartment complexes across the Peninsula. Seniors living in these places often do not have regular access to a supermarket and can receive USDA/TEFAP commodities and shelf-stable goods every month that will serve as meal components when their own resources are low. We recently added a new site at Ashe Manor in southeastern Newport News, and we will continue to offer these distributions

so that seniors can acquire the food resources they need to support themselves and live a healthy lifestyle. Our community partner agencies also serve seniors at their distributions throughout the area.

The population of older adults is expected to increase in the next decade, and by 2040, there will be twice as many senior-aged Americans as there were in 2000. This will increase the demand for social services, including food assistance and nutrition services. When you support the Foodbank, know that one of the groups you are helping to nourish is our senior citizen population. These neighbors need access to nutritious food to meet their unique health needs, and we will continue to work diligently to address their concerns and alleviate the anxiety and uncertainty that hunger brings to their lives.

Upcoming Events

We depend on fundraisers throughout the year to fulfill our mission of minimizing hunger in our community. A toolkit can be found on www.hrfoodbank.org to get you started.

Feds Feed Families Food Drive

June – August

Virginia United Methodist Church Conference Food Drive

(Hampton Roads Convention Center Parking Lot)

Drive through and Drop off

June 16 – 18

Tidewater Corvette Club Car Show

(Weather permitting)

July 15 at the Foodbank

September Hunger Action Month WEAR ORANGE

106.9 The Fox and FM99 Mayflower Marathon Food Drive

November 17 – 19

Peninsula Track Club's Fast Before the Feast 5K

November 23

Tastefully Yours

April 12, 2018



Giving has never been so easy!

Start fundraising for the Foodbank on our Facebook page!



CONTACT US

2401 Aluminum Avenue
Hampton, VA 23661
757-596-7188
www.hrfoodbank.org



SOCIAL MEDIA



VAPenFoodbank



hrfoodbank

MISSION

The mission of the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank is to distribute food effectively through collaborative efforts that minimize hunger, promote nutrition and encourage self-reliance through education.

VISION

To inspire hope by leading the effort for a hunger-free and properly nourished community.

SERVICE AREA

The Foodbank distributes to the following cities and counties:

