



Food first

Inspiring Hope, Feeding Families



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2017 - 2018 Board of Directors

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A NOTE FROM KAREN

Dear Friends,

Weather. There's not much an individual can do about it. This winter has already been particularly tough. Weather affects us all differently. Some are able to enjoy the opportunity to play in the snow, while others worry about lost wages from missing work. Those who live paycheck-to-paycheck also must determine how they will pay the higher utility bills. Heat or eat? That's one of the decisions we don't want people to face and is why we're here. We're not just around for the traditional eating holidays in November and December. There are households who need extra help making ends meet all year long.

In this newsletter, you will read about our efforts to help as a result of another weather event - Hurricane Maria, which devastated Puerto Rico. Although all the food and money that is donated to the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank stays right here to help our neighbors across the greater Peninsula, when the call went out from Feeding America for food bank staff members who speak fluent Spanish and have particular skills, how could we not choose to help? The profile and skills needed for the requested disaster relief workers matched those of our Agency Outreach Coordinator Martha Inge. Her story is just one inspiring way that your Foodbank touches and changes lives.

Also in this edition, you will read about Andrew, a grandfather raising his grandchildren. He visits one of our partner agencies in Hampton to receive the assistance he needs to keep his family together.

The faces of hunger are those of your neighbors as well as those around the world. While hunger knows no season, you enable us to warm the hearts of those in need with healthy meals during the cold winter months. We are grateful that you choose to support and lift up your neighbors here on the Peninsula. It is on behalf of them that we offer our thanks.

Gratefully,

Karen L. Joyner

Karen L. Joyner
Chief Executive Officer

Smithfield's Helping Hungry Homes Across the Greater Peninsula and Beyond

Smithfield Foods consistently offers us strong support to make an impact on our neighbors in need across the greater Peninsula. To commemorate the 10th year of their Helping Hungry Homes initiative that focuses on alleviating hunger and helping people become more food secure, Smithfield Foods kicked off the celebration with a generous donation to us on January 16th. Their considerable financial support, through substantial contributions and continually serving as a Grand Sponsor of our annual Tastefully Yours fundraiser, enables us to feed even more people through our agencies and programs.

Beyond significant support financially, Smithfield Foods also provides us with food donations containing the protein that is incredibly difficult for us to acquire, and yet is so essential to helping our neighbors live a healthy lifestyle. They offer us everything from cases of ham, bacon and hot dogs, to whole cuts, to packaged meats. The food we receive from them is always of the highest quality. The partner agencies that collaborate with us to distribute food are elated when these valuable items are available. These donations of protein are also offered at our Mobile Food Pantry Program sites where families and senior citizens can take home healthy, nourishing food that they greatly need, but cannot obtain on their own.

Smithfield Foods is also currently sponsoring our Mobile Food Pantry Program site at the VA Medical Center in Hampton.

Once a month, we bring fresh produce, proteins, and shelf-stable goods to over 200 veterans and their families, and Smithfield Foods' support of this program site demonstrates their

stated commitment to those who serve or have served this country through military service. "At Smithfield, we value our longstanding relationship with the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank to enrich the vitality of our community here in Virginia and fulfill our company's social purpose," said Keira Lombardo, senior vice president of corporate affairs for Smithfield Foods. "Whether providing hunger-relief through Smithfield's Helping Hungry Homes initiative, or supporting Virginia Peninsula's Mobile Food Pantry program to combat hunger among veterans, we're proud to witness the positive impact we've made together."

Emphasizing that hunger relief is the cornerstone of their social purpose, Smithfield Foods and their partnership with us puts that purpose into action, providing us with the financial and food resources to distribute healthy meals. Their support truly is helping hungry homes across the Peninsula every year.



"At Smithfield, we value our longstanding relationship with the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank to enrich the vitality of our community here in Virginia and fulfill our company's social purpose."

MAYFLOWER MARATHON

It was an exciting year for the 21st annual Mayflower Marathon, a partnership with 106.9 The Fox and FM99 to raise much-needed food and funds to provide meals to those who struggle with hunger during the holiday season. We expanded our reach this year by adding a second location in Williamsburg, and our donors loved being able to support us at two locations. Hampton Roads residents felt the giving spirit and donated enough to provide 667,000 meals, almost 200,000 of which was donated on and will stay on the Peninsula. Thank you for your consistent support now and throughout the year.



HOPE AMIDST DEVASTATION

A major city, once full of activity, was pitch black in the evenings. Cables and trees littered the ground. Her rental car's GPS indicated that she should turn onto roads that no longer existed.

For Martha Inge, our Agency Outreach Coordinator, this was the scene that confronted her when she traveled to Puerto Rico on behalf of Feeding America for two weeks in November to provide hunger relief after Hurricane Maria had devastated the island in the summer. Selected for her fluency in Spanish, her ability to lead volunteers, and her strong energy and dedication, Martha served as a Volunteer Coordinator at Banco de Alimentos de Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico's only food bank, located 25 minutes from San Juan.

Working 12-hour days in warehouse temperatures that reached 110 degrees, Martha's primary role was to work as part of a Feeding America team to manage volunteers that would sort food and prepare boxes of important basic food items for the residents living without power or often even homes. Volunteers consisted of churches, government officials, corporations, security firms, and banks—and sometimes even those who received the food would offer to pack food for others. Teenagers, with no school to attend, would work tirelessly throughout the day before returning to a church that night for a meal and sleep. Agencies would come from all over the island 2-3 times per week, navigating difficult roads, to pick up these food boxes for their local communities. At one point, Martha and the volunteers were assembling 40 boxes every seven minutes. On average, they prepared 2,500 boxes per day.

While there, Martha was able to locate and bring food and supplies to two elderly women related to people she knew on the Peninsula. She also participated in a distribution where a woman in a wheelchair who had just lost her daughter, leaving her with grandchildren to raise, broke down into sobs upon receiving her food box. Even corporations and organizations not there for the purpose of hunger relief offered to carry food with them when they traveled the island to repair infrastructure. Describing the experience as "life-changing," Martha remarked that the residents she encountered were "humbled, grateful, thankful, and overwhelmed." Beaming with a sense of pride amidst the devastation, they continually thanked Martha and her team for coming to their "isleta" (little island). Feeding America will be maintaining a presence there in the months to come.

When asked to reflect on what she gleaned from her time in Puerto Rico, Martha pauses and takes a breath. She responds, "We all are human beings. Material things don't matter. The people there were so nice to us and to each other in a terrible situation. There was no resentment." She added, "They kept telling me, 'It's going to be okay.' They don't even want to leave Puerto Rico. They just need a little help."

"In the end," Martha says, "connections with people are all we have." That's food for thought.



Food Lion Transforms Partner Agency Pantries

Food Lion remains our largest food donor, and in honor of their 60th anniversary, they selected two of our partner agencies to participate in their annual Great Pantry Makeover. The Foodbank first put out a call for all interested agencies to submit applications. The Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation selected Zion Prospect Baptist Church in Yorktown and The Welcome Table at First Christian Church in Hampton to receive needed repairs and renovations that will increase their capacity to distribute healthy food into our community.

Team members from Food Lion (most of them enthusiastic, repeat volunteers every year) perform all of the work, and Food Lion covers all costs associated with the transformation. This year, the renovations they did included installing a commercial freezer at one pantry along with the donation of \$1,000 worth of frozen foods. They expanded the space in the second pantry into an adjoining room by removing a wall, installing shelves, painting a wall, and repairing a floor. The cost of both pantry makeovers totaled \$8,100 in grant support from the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation.

With these renovations, Zion Prospect Baptist Church now has the space to accommodate more clients at the same time and store more food. The Welcome Table now has a greater capacity to store more frozen and perishable items for those in need. Thank you to Food Lion and the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation for partnering with us on The Great Pantry Makeover and for all of your food and financial support throughout our history. Congratulations on your 60th Anniversary!



MLK Day of Service 2018

Congressman Bobby Scott, Newport News Mayor McKinley L. Price, Delegate Marcia "Cia" Price, and Sheriff Gabe Morgan hosted a Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service Celebration food drive to benefit our community on January 15. They invited the residents of Newport News to honor Dr. King's legacy of service by donating food and funds to help our neighbors in need. A food drive of this magnitude makes a significant impact on those who face food insecurity.



A special thank you to all of the corporations, foundations, and nonprofit organizations that have provided us with generous grant awards since July 1st. We genuinely appreciate your support. Together, we are providing hunger relief and hope to our neighbors in need who are struggling with food insecurity.

- Altria Companies Employee Community Fund
- Community Knights, Inc.
- Daily Press-Ferguson Holiday Fund
- Darden Foundation
- Ferguson Enterprises
- First United Methodist Church - Newport News
- Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation
- generationON/Points of Light Institute
- Mars Foundation
- National Lutheran Communities & Services
- Newport News Shipbuilding
- Northrop Grumman Corporation
- Red Nose Day
- SpartanNash Foundation
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- Williamsburg Health Foundation

Andrew's Story

I worked as a long-distance tractor-trailer driver for 25 years before I retired. I was retired when my sister Brenda's husband passed away about 10 years ago. She was raising three of her grandchildren—now ages 18, 17 and 14—and with her husband gone, she needed extra help. So, I came down for the funeral and stayed.

Now we live together. I help around the house and with cooking. We receive social security, and I do maintenance work around the neighborhood for a small income, but our budget is

pretty tight. We often worry about not having enough money for all of our bills, but with God's help, we make it through.

Every Wednesday, I go to the food pantry to get a bag of food, and that helps us make ends meet. They give a whole variety of food—canned foods, meat, bread, peanut butter, milk, odds and ends. Brenda's grandchildren are teenagers, which means they eat a lot. Buying all the food they need would take up a majority of what little we earn. Having the food pantry allows us to have money for other necessities like utilities and clothing for the kids.

The food we receive means the world to us. It's a blessing. We're not choosy people; we are just grateful to be able to feed our family. I'm really glad the pantry is here to help.



MOBILE FOOD PANTRIES—A Great Way to Get Involved

What are they? Our Mobile Food Pantry Program takes food directly to over 30 community sites each month, including schools, community centers, churches, senior apartment complexes, and our local VA Medical Center. We bring USDA/TEFAP commodities, shelf-stable goods, and fresh produce to families, seniors, and veterans so that they will have food to sustain them when their resources are low.

How can you help? In addition to our need for monetary support, we need individuals, civic and church groups, and businesses to provide 3-4 volunteer hours at pantry sites to help set up the event, register attendees, distribute food items, assist attendees with transporting food

items to their vehicles or residence (on site), and clean up.

What is involved? Our distributions are held each month on a recurring monthly schedule. A Foodbank representative is on site to supervise and coordinate the event. Whether you're interested in supporting a mobile food pantry once, quarterly, or wish to make a long-term commitment, we're able to work with you.

What will you gain? You will see first-hand the faces of our neighbors in need that we assist, representing all walks of life and all ages. You are making a difference in our community and helping the Foodbank.

What is the next step? Please contact our Volunteer Coordinator, Maria Quigley, at mquigley@hrfoodbank.org or call (757) 596-7188.



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.

The Peninsula's Premier Food Tasting Event



25th Tastefully Yours

April 12, 6-9:30pm
Hampton Roads Convention Center

Tickets \$50, \$60 day of event
Available at hrfoodbank.org or call 757-596-7188

Presenting Sponsor: **Kroger**

VIRGINIA PENINSULA Foodbank

BayPort Credit Union
The Smarter Way to Bank.

FERGUSON cares

Smithfield

National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive

May 12

Music Feeds Us Benefit Concert St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

May 16

Chick Fil-A 10K/5K

May 26

Hunger Action Month

September

Mayflower Marathon

November 16 - 18

Legal Food Frenzy Virginia Statewide Food/Fund Drive

April 16 - 27



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



MISSION

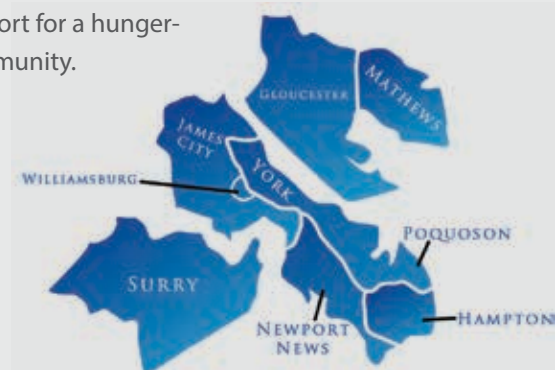
The mission of the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank is to distribute food effectively through collaborative efforts that minimize hunger, promote nutrition and encourage self-reliance through education.

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:



SOCIAL MEDIA



VAPenFoodbank



hrfoodbank