



Tastefully Yours

May 1, 2025

Dear Friend of the Foodbank,

Thanks to your support of the community over the last 38 years, Virginia Peninsula Foodbank, a member of Feeding America, is the largest hunger relief organization across the greater Peninsula. We provide food assistance to help families experiencing and struggling with food insecurity and a free workforce development 12-week Culinary Training Program for eligible adults to develop skills that can lead to jobs and self-reliance. Our mission would not be possible without your compassion and kindness to help people.

Food is the best tool a child can have to succeed in school, food is medicine for seniors, and food is love for your neighbors and hardworking families. We know that food connects us in many ways, but it often takes the back burner when families are struggling with hunger not knowing where their next meal will come from. I'm asking for your help today so we can continue our mission of minimizing hunger in our community by extending an invitation to become a Sponsor of our largest annual fundraising event, Tastefully Yours. Now in its 29th year, Tastefully Yours will be held on **Thursday, May 1, 2025** at the Hampton Roads Convention Center. This impactful event brings the Peninsula's caring supporters together to help us strengthen and expand our programs like the Food for Kids Backpack Program where we provide 1,500 bags of food a week for pre-school and elementary children to take home with them on the weekends during the school year, our monthly mobile food pantry distributions that take place at low-income senior communities, and the Culinary Training Program.

Food is a basic need, and this is why your support of Tastefully Yours is so appreciated and valued. The Foodbank needs to ensure that our shelves are always filled with nourishment when families reach out for help. Based on the Map the Meal Gap research provided by Feeding America, close to 61,000 individuals (almost 20,000 children) in the cities and counties of Newport News, Hampton, Williamsburg, James City County, Gloucester, Mathews, York, Surry and Poquoson experience food insecurity on a given day. Over the last year, we have seen an increase in attendance at food pantries and the Foodbank's monthly mobile food distributions of up to 37%, which equates to approximately 458,000 visits to the Foodbank and partner agencies from families reaching out for help.

In just one evening and with your support, we will raise the funds to make a significant and meaningful difference in their lives. With rising food and fuel prices, families are making difficult choices between meals and other basic needs. Our work is also becoming more expensive with food purchases, transportation, and freight expenses increasing.

Tastefully Yours is the Peninsula's premier food, wine, and beer tasting experience where up to 1,000 guests can enjoy the culinary flair of up to 30 local restaurants, dance to the sounds of a live band and DJ, and enjoy the company of families, co-workers and friends. The funds raised from Tastefully Yours enable us to purchase and distribute fresh fruits and vegetables, and other nutritious food to individuals, families, children, senior citizens, and veterans through our programs and over 140 partner agencies. Maximizing every contribution, we work to transform every dollar into three healthy meals. Your sponsorship of Tastefully Yours turns one night into months of lasting nourishment, giving families hope for a healthier tomorrow.

Sponsorship opportunities are available at various levels and are detailed in this packet. Feel free to contact me at dtighe@hrfoodbank.org, at 757.596.7188 with any questions. Thank you for considering a sponsorship for our 29th Tastefully Yours because *giving has never tasted so good.*

Everyday grateful,

Donna P. Tighe
Director of Development