



Food first

Inspiring Hope, Feeding Families

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A NOTE FROM KAREN



Dear Friends,

As you know, our foodbank is a member of Feeding America, the network of over 200 foodbanks across the United States. Having recently returned from the Feeding America Leadership Conference, I am inspired by the work that is being done around this nation to help develop solutions to solve the hunger issue. Together we are stronger, smarter, and more powerful as we work and share ideas to improve food security for the people we serve and ultimately help to stabilize their lives.

The recently released food insecurity figures show that we must continue to make strides in our work. Despite the recovering economy, one-in-six Americans still lack access at times to enough food for an active, healthy life. For children, the ratio is one-in-five. Across the Greater Peninsula, those figures are one-in-seven and one-in-six, respectively, but in some cities within our service area, the rates mirror the higher rates for the nation overall. There is still work to be done.

In this issue of Food First, you will find stories of the three resources needed for this work – time, funds, and food. You will read about Adam Jordan, a shining example of the thousands of volunteers who give so generously of their time. You will read about how our partners, Bank of America, Ferguson, Williamsburg Health Foundation, and all of our Tastefully Yours sponsors, enable us to acquire and distribute more healthy food in our community through the Mobile Pantry and the BackPack programs. Finally, you will read about how you can get involved to bring in more food through various food drives, both recent past and future.

Besides time, funds, and food, this summer we need your help in an additional way. With the upcoming expiration of the Child Nutrition bill on September 30, we need your assistance to rally our representatives in Congress to reauthorize this legislature that funds school lunch and breakfast, Summer Feeding programs, many of our Kids Cafe meals, and WIC. These programs are critical components of fighting hunger and keeping children fed at school, and at other times, so they can learn. Without this funding, millions more children across the country and thousands more across the Greater Peninsula will suffer. Please ask your United States Congressmen and Congresswomen to support this important funding. Together our voices can make an impact!

Karen L. Joyner

Karen L. Joyner
Chief Executive Officer

Partnerships Bring Mobile Food Pantry To Lackey

A newly formed partnership between the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank, Williamsburg Health Foundation and Community Housing Partners (CHP) has brought a new truck to the Lackey area of York County. This partnership is providing a wide variety of nutritious food, including produce, meat and other grocery items for up to 100 families. Karen Joyner, CEO for the Foodbank, says, "We have joined with Community Housing Partners and Williamsburg Health Foundation to improve the nutritional content of the food that the residents of Lackey receive on a monthly basis. Together with our partners in this endeavor, we hope to improve the health of this community."

Lackey is considered a 'Food Desert', meaning, as Kyra Cook, Program Officer at Williamsburg Health Foundation, states "Residents do not have access to healthy food retailers nor do they have access to public transportation." York County does not have public transportation. Although a grocery store exists a few miles away, many local residents of Lackey are challenged by not having their own vehicles. Mr. Key, lifelong resident of Lackey, tells us that in the 80 plus years that he has lived here, Lackey has never had a grocery store close by, the nearest is 8 miles away.

Thanks to the generosity of a Bank of America Neighborhood Builder grant, (see page 7) the Foodbank has been able to purchase a truck that is dedicated to the delivery of food to neighborhoods such as those in Lackey that are in need of a Mobile Food Pantry. Each delivery consists of fresh produce, frozen meats and canned and dry goods that are delivered directly to the residents.

Delivery is orchestrated by Foodbank staff and assisted by dedicated volunteers that help each resident with their selection of food items. The Foodbank utilizes the Mobile Food Pantry to introduce produce items that may not be familiar to some residents, but offer more nutritional value. Volunteers are briefed at each delivery site and often given suggestions on food preparation to share with those picking up food.

Ms. Sylvia Carter, who lives at the Woods of Yorktown Apartments in Lackey and is also serving as a volunteer, knows the importance of eating for wellness. She shared how this distribution stretches her budget, exclaiming, "the amount of [my] food stamps has been downsized and this helps supplement [my food budget] and to save money in my pocket so that I can make it from the beginning to the end of the month. The meats are the most helpful. Healthy food like produce is important because it's

fresh and I can cook it, boil or bake it, which makes it more nourishing for your body, without the added salt. We're thankful for the Foodbank coming out today."

As the distribution comes to a close, volunteers break down the tents and tables, loading them onto the Foodbank's truck. The Foodbank will return, playing out this scene for months to come, or at least until this neighborhood is no longer considered a food desert and its residents have access to a variety of nutritious food without having to travel miles to obtain it. In the meantime, Kyra Cook states, "The Foundation is hopeful that this new partnership with the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank and Community Housing Partners results in regular access to proteins and fresh produce that will improve the well-being of the people living in the Lackey community."



Ms. Sylvia Carter, who lives at the Woods of Yorktown Apartments in Lackey and is also serving as a volunteer, knows the importance of eating for wellness.





2015 TASTEFULLY YOURS



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An Event to Benefit the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank



2015 TASTEFULLY YOURS

GIVING HAS NEVER TASTED SO GOOD

A Voyage to Atlantis was the theme of the 22nd Annual Tastefully Yours held on April 2nd and it was a record breaker for us. It was a beautiful night with dolphin sculptures in the garden, cascading linens, dazzling chandeliers, blue and green accent lights, murals, and all kinds of underwater decorations to accentuate the theme.

This night was made possible with the generous support of our Grand Sponsors, BayPort Credit Union, D.A.V. Thrift Stores, Ferguson and Smithfield, and many other sponsors who made this the biggest and best ever! We appreciate the support of each of you, our participating restaurants, committee members and guests.

Because of you, we raised enough money to provide over **650,000 meals** to hungry children, seniors, and families across the Greater Peninsula. Thank you for making a difference in the lives of many!

THANK YOU, TASTE PARTNERS

- | | |
|---|---|
| Backyard Bar-B-Que | Rajput Indian Cuisine |
| Bailey's Sports Grille | Rodgers' Banana
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| Briar Patch Tea Room | Sabrosa Foods |
| Captain Chuck-a-Mucks | Salsa's Mexican Grill |
| Cheddar's Casual Café | Schlesinger's Chophouse |
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at Embassy Suites | Stratford University, NN,
Culinary Program |
| Ethereal Cupcakes
& Coffee Shoppe | Thai Erawan |
| Farm Fresh
Food & Pharmacy | Thai Siam |
| Fin Seafood | The Chamberlin
Retirement Living |
| Foodbank's Culinary
Training Program | The Custom Cake Shoppe |
| Hayashi Sushi & Grill | The Grey Goose |
| 'Mango Mango'
Mango Preserves | The Point at Phoebus |
| Nawab Indian Cuisine | Trader Joe's |
| Opus 9 Steakhouse | Tucanos Brazilian Grill |
| Oysters for Life | UNO Pizzeria & Grill |
| Park Lane Tavern | Vintner's Cellar of Yorktown |
| Plaza Azteca | Wing Bistro
Chicken and Waffles |



Legal Food Frenzy

Between March 30th and April 10th, eleven law firms and one law school from across the Greater Peninsula collected canned goods and monetary donations to help their neighbors in need. We would like to thank Jones, Blechman, Woltz & Kelly; Mulkey, Forbes, Reid & Barton; Williams Mullen; Kaufman and Canoles; Gillette Law Group; LeClairRyan; Patten, Wornom, Hatten & Diamondstein; Richard Law Group; Newport News Public Defender's Office; Matney Law; Tarley Robinson and William and Mary Law School for your generosity to help provide the equivalent of 38,000 meals.



Stamp out Hunger

On May 9th letter carriers from across the country took to the streets to collect canned goods that were placed at mail boxes in support of the 23rd Annual National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. Not only are the letter carriers delivering the mail, they are delivering hope with the gift of over 42,000 meals.

Structures of Hope

Students from twelve local high, middle and elementary schools participated in the 4th Annual Youth Volunteer Corps of Hampton Roads Can-structure at Patrick Henry Mall on April 18th. The spirit of giving was displayed as they came together to have fun, be creative and make a difference. The students collected a total of over 20,000 canned goods.

The Woodmen of the World hosted their 56th Virginia Jurisdictional Convention on April 25th in Williamsburg. Members from all the state chapters built a structure of hope out of 10,200 canned goods as a kick-off to their national fight hunger campaign.



One City Marathon

Runners and walkers from across the country participated in the First Annual One City Marathon and the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank was excited to be a part of this inaugural event. The Foodbank was one of three charities chosen to benefit from the One City, One Celebration event.



Empty Bowl Virginia Peninsula

Potters from the community donate their time and talent to create beautiful, yet empty, ceramic bowls that symbolize hunger. Guests are served soup prepared by local restaurants and leave with a reminder of the important issue of hunger, an empty handcrafted bowl.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE.
TOGETHER WE CAN SOLVE HUNGER!™



Bank of America



Virginia Peninsula Foodbank Receives Bank of America Neighborhood Builder Grant

The Virginia Peninsula Foodbank and the Bank of America Charitable Foundation have a new partnership to help feed hungry children, seniors, and families across the Greater Peninsula.

On the morning of March 3rd, with several local officials and media present, a new 24-foot truck was unveiled that will help expand the Foodbank's Mobile Pantry Program and provide nutritious food to those living in food deserts. The funding is part of the Bank of America Neighborhood Builders program. Charlie Henderson, Hampton Roads Market President, presented the Foodbank with a check for \$200,000 and Bank of America volunteers also packed 400 USDA food bags.

"We recognize the significant role the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank plays in our community and

the importance of having a mobile pantry truck," said Henderson. "The funding provided through Neighborhood Builders will help them expand their operations to reach families that may not have access to supermarkets and other sources of fresh food."

Across the Greater Peninsula, almost 74,000 individuals are food insecure, or have limited access to enough food. However, last year, we served 152,000 individuals that needed assistance. One in four of them were children.

"We are so grateful to Bank of America for awarding the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank this generous grant and the opportunity to participate in their leadership training program," said Karen Joyner, CEO of the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank.

"Promoting nutrition is an important component of our mission statement and this support will allow us to provide even more assistance to those who may not currently have access to fresh produce and other nutritious foods."

The following week, on March 10th, the formal presentation took place at the Mariner's Museum to include past Neighborhood Builder grant winners. Currently marking its tenth anniversary, Neighborhood Builders is a strategic investment in communities that combines \$200,000 in flexible funding with leadership training for high-performing nonprofits and their executives.

School's Out, Hunger's Not

Do you often think back to your younger days, when you were in elementary school, and couldn't wait for summer break? Often, we wish we could go back, if even for a short time, just to bask in the enjoyment of summer break. No school, for nearly three whole months! Many of us played with our friends until dark, rode our bike for miles and miles, and swam in the local community pools. Those were the days!

Sadly, for many children in our community, summer break isn't such a fun experience. Summer means they aren't going to school, where they are able to eat breakfast and lunch. Summer break is a time when too many children suffer from food insecurity, or they don't know where their next meal will come from. That's where the Foodbank comes in.

This summer, with the assistance of Ferguson, the Foodbank will be hard at work making sure thousands of children are able to receive



nutritious, healthy meals, whether it is breakfast, lunch, dinner or a variety of weekend meals. While the Foodbank is busy preparing meals during the day to deliver to hungry kids at dozens of sites as part of the Summer Food Service Program, we will also be packing backpacks to deliver to many of these same kids as part of our Summer Backpack Program.

We are grateful to Ferguson for generously providing the funding to purchase the nutritious food needed to deliver backpacks full of food for ten weeks this coming summer. In addition, we know that we will be able to support this much needed program for the



following two summers as well, as Ferguson has made a three year commitment to the Foodbank to fund the Summer Backpack Program.

Summer should mean fun and games for young children, not stress and hunger. Thank you, Ferguson, for helping the Foodbank bring the most basic necessities to children this summer: food!

Upcoming Events

Feds Feed Families
June – August

Macy's Shop for a Cause
August 29th

Hunger Action Month
September – Go Orange!

Local Elected Officials
Volunteer Day
September 1st

Mayflower Marathon
November 20th – 22nd

Tastefully Yours
April 14th, 2016

National Volunteer Month

April is National Volunteer Month, though we celebrate our volunteers every day as they are the backbone of our operation. Some come in weekly, donating a few hours here and there and some volunteer as a group, ready to tackle a team project. All are contributing their most valuable resources, their time and talent. We are thankful to all those who volunteer with us and help us to better serve our community.

This year, one of our volunteers, Adam Jordan, was selected as a Volunteer Hampton Roads honoree. Adam has volunteered with the Foodbank since 2012, donating over 260 hours of his time. He has not only participated in a variety of opportunities from sorting donated food, to sponsoring a Mobile Pantry, to assisting at special events, but he also took time to write to each of the elected officials in his voting district, both local and state, to bring the issue of food insecurity to their attention, citing both service area statistics and personal observations. His letter spurred the Hampton City Hall to host a Food/Fund Drive and to light up City Hall orange in support of September's Hunger Action Month.

We celebrate Adam's award from Volunteer Hampton Roads and consider ourselves fortunate to be a benefactor of his commitment to community service.

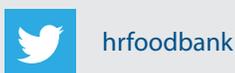


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SOCIAL MEDIA



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 encompasses the following cities and counties:

Hampton, Newport News, Gloucester, Mathews, Williamsburg, Poquoson, Surry, James City, and York.

