January and February are months for taking stock of the past year and looking ahead to the brand new year. As we reflect on all the activity of calendar year 2016, it’s an excellent time to thank our friends and donors who make most of what we do at the Foodbank possible.

As you saw in our annual Gratitude Report, we finished fiscal year 2016 solidly. Thanks to you, we managed to grow our impact significantly through our Partner Agency network, our Mobile Pantry operations, our Child Nutrition programs, and our Culinary Training program.

The first half of fiscal year 2017 has continued this trend thanks largely to our friends and partners in the community. For the second half of our fiscal year, we are committed to maintaining our existing programs and growing them where possible. Our goal in 2017 continues to be alleviating hunger across the greater Virginia Peninsula. Our vision remains the same: To inspire hope by leading the effort for a hunger free and properly nourished community. Our Values: Service, Quality, People, Stewardship, and Integrity.

Thank you for joining us in this quest in calendar year 2016. We hope we can continue to count on our friends in 2017. The work is hard. The work is gratifying. We could not do it without you. For that, we are grateful.

Many thanks,

Karen L. Joyner
Chief Executive Officer
I was in fourth grade when my dad came home one night and called us into the kitchen. We found him standing there with a mountain of food on the table.

He explained he was out of work; he didn’t buy this food; people had donated it to a place that could give it to those in need. He explained that we needed the food. It was obvious it killed him.

He told us to do well in school so that we’d never know what it felt like to not be able to feed your family. He was out of work for months, but we were never hungry thanks to food donations.

And so, I grew up, got married, and graduated from college. I launched a career in television, even worked at CNN. We returned to Hampton Roads, just as my husband was about to retire from the Army.

I got a job at WAVY-TV, we bought an amazing house, and things were going well. I remember the day our middle schooler and his youth group put all the food they had collected for the foodbank on display for Sunday service. It was a mountain of food. We were now the people giving. It felt amazing.

When my husband left the Army, the housing market busted; our mortgage skyrocketed. He couldn’t find a job. We depleted our savings, and after months with no job for him, we were faced with losing our home and going hungry.

I found myself walking the same path my father had. It was a full-circle moment that taught me so much about pride, giving, and receiving. We lost our home, but during the hard months, we were able to eat thanks to the foodbank. There are so many like us, who face bumps in the road, people who need the help that you offer by supporting our food banks.

For a long time – NO ONE KNEW, not even my family, because I was ashamed. When folks from the food banks came on The Hampton Roads Show to talk about people who need our help, they had no idea that I had been the “they” that they were talking about.

Please know that I’m writing with a fourth grader to my left, a career woman to my right, and the ghost of my father behind me and we all simply want to say: thank you.

CORPORATE SPOTLIGHT

Gina Benefiel and Tim Tuggle, Directors at Tidewater Express Inc., which owns Midas, shared that they chose to support the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank because of its breath of service and reputation in the community.

“We choose to partner with Peninsula-based charities who make a profound difference,” Gina Benefiel, Director of Administration said. Tim Tuggle, Director of Operations for Midas of Newport News and Hampton remarked, “It’s our honor and privilege to be able to give back to those right here in our community. We have been able to see firsthand what the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank is able to do for people in need and we appreciate its efforts and impact.”
A Day in the Warehouse

A representative from a partner agency loads food items onto his truck. The Foodbank partners with over 170 community organizations that obtain food at our facility and ensure that it gets to the families who need it most. We could not reach nearly as many people as we do without our strong collaborations with these agencies.

Consistent and valued volunteer Neil places cans of food onto shelves located on the Foodbank’s shopping floor. Partner agencies, after being properly certified, may use our shopping floor to obtain the items they need for their distributions throughout the Peninsula.

Volunteers sort through donated food items in our Sorting Room to prepare them for distribution through programs and partner agencies. The Foodbank sorts all items it receives to make sure they are safe to consume and properly organized for efficient distribution.

Community volunteers place nutritious, child-friendly food items into clear bags that will go to elementary school students weekly through our Food For Kids BackPack Program. Children identified as at risk for food insecurity take these bags home over the weekend, offering them nourishing meals when school-focused resources are not available to them.

Assistant Warehouse Manager Reggie transports food bags donated from Farm Fresh Supermarkets. Local businesses and organizations constantly conduct food and fund drives, offering us much-needed contributions and illustrating the importance of community support to fight and alleviate food insecurity.
Volunteers assemble bags filled with USDA/TEFAP commodities that will be handed out at one of our 31 Mobile Pantry Program sites. These sites are in low-income neighborhoods and senior apartment complexes where access to food is limited. Residents can come to monthly distributions and receive meal components that will sustain them during difficult times.

Customer Service Assistant Jackie Holly weighs food that will be taken by a partner agency to be distributed. The Foodbank keeps meticulous, accurate measurements of how many pounds of food it distributes to remain accountable to organizational goals and committed to increasing our impact.

Inventory Specialist Antwain Richardson removes a pallet of emergency food boxes from a shelf. People who need immediate and urgent food assistance may obtain a box of emergency food from the Foodbank along with a referral to a partner agency in their area that can help them find resources in the future.

A special thank you to all of the corporations, foundations, and nonprofit organizations that have provided us with generous grant awards since July 1st. You are truly helping us provide hope to our neighbors in need who are struggling with food insecurity.

- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- Bruton Parish Church
- CarMax Foundation
- Daily Press-Ferguson Holiday Fund
- Dominion Foundation
- Farm Fresh/SUPERVALU, Inc.
- Ferguson Enterprises
- First United Methodist Church – Newport News
- Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation
- Mars Foundation
- The Millers Foundation
- Newport News Shipbuilding
- Northrop Grumman
- Red Nose Day Fund
- SpartanNash Foundation
- TEGNA Foundation
- UPS Foundation
- Williamsburg Health Foundation

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Inventory Specialist >>

Antwain Richardson removes a pallet of emergency food boxes from a shelf. People who need immediate and urgent food assistance may obtain a box of emergency food from the Foodbank along with a referral to a partner agency in their area that can help them find resources in the future.
Each year we are amazed and honored by the number of people who come by and donate to the Mayflower Marathon. This year was no exception. The 20th annual Mayflower Marathon with 106.9 The Fox and FM99 raised enough food and money to provide over 652,000 meals across Hampton Roads. Over 160,000 of those meals will stay on the Peninsula. We are humbled by your support and hope that you will continue to remember our neighbors in need throughout the year.
Smithfield and Harris Teeter Answer the Call for Food

Smithfield Foods and Harris Teeter kicked off their Helping Hungry Homes initiative at the Foodbank last month by donating over 30,000 pounds of much-needed protein. These protein donations are valuable to the partner agencies that pick up food from us because they are difficult to obtain through community donations alone, and they help the citizens we serve achieve a balanced diet and live a healthy lifestyle. Our relationship with Smithfield Foods has been strong and constant over the past 30 years, and they consistently provide us with essential food items at critical times.

MLK’s Day of Service Food Drive

Newport News Mayor McKinley L. Price, Delegate Marcia “Cia” Price, and Sheriff Gabe Morgan challenged the residents of Newport News to donate food to the Foodbank during the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service celebration on January 16th. This food drive collected enough food and funds to provide over 15,000 meals and brought our communities together in honor of Dr. King’s legacy of public service.

Newport News Shipbuilding— Feeds our Community with their Annual Holiday Food Drive
Service Area
The Foodbank distributes to the following cities and counties:

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<th>City</th>
<th>County</th>
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<tr>
<td>Hampton</td>
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<td>Yorktown</td>
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<td>Gloucester</td>
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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.

Social Media
VAPenFoodbank hrfoodbank

Upcoming Events

Virginia Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Coffee Connection
March 7 at the Foodbank

Legal Food Frenzy
Virginia Attorney General & the Young Lawyers Division of the Virginia Bar Association
April 3 - 14

National Association of Letter Carriers Food Drive
May 13

Chick-Fil-A 10k/5K
May 27

Hunger Action Month
September

2017 Tastefully Yours
April 13th, 6-9:30pm
Hampton Roads Convention Center