



“Love cannot remain by itself -- it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action, and that action is service.”

Mother Theresa

Food Finders Food Bank

Volunteer News

December 2011

Happy Holidays!

Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers. All of us here at Food Finders Food Bank want to wish you a happy and safe holiday season. We hope to see you all in the new year as we move on to an exciting 2012!

Our office will be closed from December 23 until January 3. If you are looking for volunteering opportunities during that time please feel free to contact one of our member agencies as most are run completely by volunteers. We will also have a list of current volunteer needs around the area that will include special events hosted by these agencies. Please feel free to call or email for more details.

Enjoy your holiday, stay warm, and thank you for your continued support of Food Finders and for sharing our mission in ending hunger for the nearly 97,000 food insecure individuals in our service area.

Sincerely,

Amy and the Food Finders Staff

Holiday Giving

Giving is easy at Food Finders Food Bank. A donation of just \$1 is equal to 3 meals for someone struggling with hunger. That means just \$21 will feed a family of 3 for an entire week!

Are you still looking for that perfect gift for someone? Place a donation in their name. Food Finders is offering gift donation certificates this holiday season. Call us today to place your donation and we'll mail it out to you or the recipient in time for the holidays.



Volunteer of the Month: Cassandra Thompson

Cassandra started volunteering with Food Finders in September of this year and has quickly become an indispensable asset to several areas of our organization. Cassandra helps out wherever she is needed with a smile and positive attitude. From sorting potatoes and apples to packaging meat crumbles Cassandra tackles every project with the same enthusiasm. She is known as “Super Vol” in several areas of the Food Finders office. Cassandra has recently started helping out at our Whistle Stop Mobile Pantry events.

“Cassandra is dynamite!” says Dan Irvin, our Mobile Pantry driver. She also helps out on the shop floor with bakery items and frozen meat deliveries. Cassandra says, “It is essential for me to volunteer because I am in a position where I can give back. To whom much is given, much is expected.” Cassandra has truly impressed everyone here at Food Finders. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication.



Stay tuned... A volunteer appreciation event is underway for early 2012. Details coming soon!

Contact Informaiton... Would you like to receive updates about current Food Finders news? Please send us your email and we'll add you to our list.

Check our website often as volunteer needs are always changing!

December Volunteer Options:

In addition to our ongoing volunteer needs, there are plenty of volunteering opportunities across our service area. Most of our member agencies are volunteer-run and will likely need people to help during the holidays. Please visit the "Need Food?" page on our website for contact information to these agencies. We will also have a list of special holiday volunteer opportunities hosted by our agency pantries around mid-December. Please feel free to call and see what opportunities are around.

Drive Away Hunger



This year's Drive Away Hunger community food drive really showed the staff at Food Finders how much our community cares! As of November 23 we had collected over 89,000 lbs. of food and we still are picking up donations around town. We are anticipating to reach our goal of 100,000 lbs. All of the food and other non-perishable items that were collected are already being distributed around our 16-county service area. Thank you to all of the schools, churches, businesses, and individuals who participated in this event. We and our member agencies are so grateful for all of the support!

Remember: Food and Fund drives are a great way to support Food Finders. You can organize them around your schedule and be as creative as you want! Also, what you collect not only helps those in your local community but it goes to feed those who are hungry throughout Mid-North Indiana. Currently, \$1 allows us to purchase 3 meals. For more information about how to host a food or fund drive, visit our website: www.food-finders.org or call Amy @ Food Finders.

Did you know?

Food Finders is a great place to host an office volunteer outing. Purdue Federal Credit Union and 30 of their managers joined us in late October for a morning of service. They helped packaged over 1,300 bags of cereal, over 1,000 bags of meat crumbles, bottled over 300 bottles of laundry soap, and sorted over 14,000 lbs. of pork sausage and frozen meats all in just 3 hours! If an outing isn't possible, office food drives are another great way to volunteer with your whole staff.



Group Volunteer Opportunity: We are looking for groups of 10-17 people to help run concession stands at Mackay Arena for the 2011-2012 Purdue Basketball season. 10% of the proceeds from your stand go to help Food Finders Food Bank. If you would like to get your group involved please call Amy @ Food Finders: (765) 471-0062

Volunteer Needs

- **Package Meat Crumbles:** Portion and repackage frozen meat crumbles for distribution on Mobile Pantry events
- **Package Cereal:** Portion and package cereal to be used in our Backpack Program and shop floor
- **Sort Donations:** Sort, repackage, and re-label salvageable items

- **Make Laundry Soap:** Make and bottle laundry soap, this can be a two-day or large group project
- **Delivery/Pick-up:** Pick up or deliver items from grocery stores/retailers, or barrels from local food drives for redistribution
- **Organize/Host a Food Drive:** Every can counts and helps fill our shelves

Contact Amy Gaulke for information about ongoing projects: agaulke@food-finders.org