



Food Finders Food Bank, Inc.

fighting hunger, giving hope

www.Food-Finders.org
765.471.0062
1204 Greenbush Street
Lafayette, IN 47904



Summer 2017

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Dear Friends,

What a year! I can barely believe a year has passed since Food Finders opened the Food Resource & Education Center (FREC) on Greenbush Street and expanded our storage capacity by moving into a larger warehouse on North 10th Street.

The FREC is a valuable resource for the community. The J. P. Lisack Community Food Pantry is open 30 hours each week including four evenings and Saturdays. Food Finders is distributing more produce and nutrient rich food than ever before. Our new education program offers more than 20 classes a month on topics ranging from "Dining with Diabetes," "Winterizing your Home," to "Stress Reduction," and "Meal Planning Made Easy." Trained resource coordinators are available to connect our clients to other community services from treatment for mental illness to job interview workshops.

The Greater Lafayette Community has been wonderful to Food Finders. We are fortunate to have volunteers from Purdue Extension, Franciscan Health, Homestead C.S., WorkOne, local banks, non-profits and churches partner with us to teach education classes. Our pantry is mostly volunteer run, needing 60 plus volunteers each week. Employers, insurers, and representatives from other care

providers in the area spend time in our pantry waiting room allowing our clients to learn about their services. It is wonderful to witness our helpful and collaborative community in action.

Pantry clients are able to use the pantry as often as needed but very few households shop more than once each week. People we serve who are taking classes, using the pantry, and meeting with resource coordinators complete surveys that tell us what they are learning and that they appreciate the services we are offering. Many of the people we serve also volunteer in our pantry.

The gratitude of the people we are helping is palpable, but the feeling that there is so much more work to do is constant.

Prior to opening the FREC, I assumed that teaching classes and providing healthy food would put people on the path to self-sufficiency. I realize now, that there are no easy solutions to the problems people face when they are living in poverty. I know that those relying on food pantries are employed with low wages and uncertain hours, or they are children, the elderly, the disabled, struggling with mental health challenges or the caregivers of these people. Occasionally we see clients with a straightforward path to employment and self-sufficiency, but this is rare.

We live in a compassionate and generous community where those who need a "little help" are usually able to find it.

The Food Resource & Education Center's task is to help low-income people with complex issues solve a multitude of problems so they can improve their lives and stabilize their household. We are putting people on a path to being as self-sufficient as they are capable of being. A few examples: We are helping a man with mental health challenges obtain health insurance—with little documentation, so his schizophrenia can be treated. We are helping a woman with a permanent disability process paperwork to reduce student loan payments while she awaits permanent disability status. We are assisting an elderly woman with the complicated application process to have her roof replaced, which will enable her to rent a room in her house to supplement her limited income. These are just a few of the many different situations our clients come to us with in addition to food insecurity.

It has truly been a great year. Food Finders is providing food and connecting people to community resources. We are helping people with complex problems begin the long journey from poverty to self-sufficiency. The only way we will achieve our goals is with your help.

Sincerely,

Katy O'Malley Bunder

Katy O'Malley Bunder
President/CEO



FROM client to VOLUNTEER

One pleasure we have experienced since opening our community room to education classes is watching our clients transition to leaderships roles when they volunteer to teach.

Cathy started visiting the J.P. Lisack Community Food Pantry in August of 2016. And now, not yet a year later, she is teaching classes. Her passion for cooking inspired her to speak with our Education Coordinator, Abby, to ask about how to get involved, give back and help others.

Cathy grew up in San Jose, California, and came to the area by way of Purdue. Her husband was a professor and all four of her children received degrees from Purdue University. Cathy learned to cook by being a stay-at-home mom and running an at-home daycare for 28 years. She is now retired and has seven grandchildren that she spends as much time with as she can.

Her grandchildren inspire her recipes for the classes she teaches at the FREC. They are also her assistants. Their favorite thing to make together are pita pizzas. They make multiple pizzas and freeze them in baggies so they are ready to reheat whenever they get hungry.

Being creative with food is one of Cathy's strong suits. "When there were sweet potatoes in the pantry, I made a lot of sweet potato bread and brought it in to share," said Cathy.

Cathy wants people to know that not only does the J.P. Lisack Community Food Pantry offer a wide variety of fruits and vegetables but that they should also explore the class offerings. With more than 20 classes offered a month, there is guaranteed to be something for everyone.



DRIVE AWAY HUNGER

Fall Food Drive

On October 19, Food Finders will kick off our annual community-wide food drive, *Drive Away Hunger*. With the help of our sponsors, we encourage schools, businesses, religious organizations, and individuals to "take the wheel" by collecting food and funds to keep the food bank stocked through the winter months.

This year, we have set a goal to collect 450,000 meals throughout the 6-week food drive.

Interested in participating? Contact our Development Department at 765.471.0062 x221 to learn more about sponsorship opportunities, or to host a food or fund drive of your own.

2016 Drive Away Hunger Winners:

Mintonye Elementary	3,114 meals
East Tipp Middle	9,509 meals
Harrison H.S.	2,502 meals

POWERED BY 13,047+ VOLUNTEERS YTD HOURS



HELP IN OUR

pantry, warehouse, classes, & garden!



MOBILE PANTRY PROGRAM

more than 703,512 meals distributed and counting...

Mobile Pantry distributions increase access to nutritious food in rural communities. Food Finders collaborates with dozens of community organizations to provide groceries and household goods directly to families facing hunger. Our goal for FY17 is to reach each county that we serve at least once a month through this critical program. To date, FFFB has served 135,000 meals to more than 30,000 families struggling with hunger.

Celebrating TEN YEARS of BackPack

Did you know that compared to the general population, children have the highest risk of struggling with hunger—and suffer the most devastating short and long-term consequences?

Many local children who receive free or reduced-price meals at school through federal nutrition programs face hunger on the weekends and during breaks. Food Finders' BackPack Program provides bags full of nutritious, easy-to-prepare food to school-age children on Friday afternoons throughout the school year. Entering its tenth year this fall, Food Finders wishes to extend a special thank you to the more than 70 schools, packing and funding partners who work with us weekly to make this program possible as well as hundreds of individual donors who believe that no child

should go to school hungry. Many people ask why this program is so important and if it is necessary to keep going. The BackPack Program has proven to be the most *efficient* way to get food into the hands of those who need it most.

The backpack also provides a vehicle in which to send home additional community resources and recipes to families struggling. This program is vital to ensuring that children come to school full and ready to learn on Monday mornings.

Some of our schools with the highest need remain unfunded for the 2017-2018 school year. Won't you consider adopting a BackPack child this year? Just \$210 ensures that a student struggling with hunger will receive a backpack every Friday.



MAJOR GIFTS 2017 Update

Thank you to the following foundations, businesses, and organizations who provided significant financial contributions to the food bank from January to June of 2017.

- Robert Henry Perkins Irrevocable Trust** \$230,000
- Walmart Foundation** \$75,000
- Alfred J. & Dorothy N. McAllister Foundation** \$40,000
- Arconic Corporation** \$25,000
- Bauer Family Resources** \$15,000
- Monsanto Together** \$14,000
- Kroger** \$10,493
- Valeo Financial Advisors, LLC** \$10,000
- The Kelly Group** \$10,000
- MKSK Landscape Architecture** \$7,195
- Swipe Out Starvation** \$6,490
- Purdue University HTM Society** \$5,764
- Tate and Lyle** \$5,228
- Hawthorn PNC Family Wealth** \$5,000
- Huston Electric, Inc** \$5,000
- Making Our Children Smile** \$5,000
- Norfolk Southern Foundation** \$5,000
- Miami Cass REMC Operation Round Up** \$4,600
- Northern Indiana Community Foundation** \$4,600
- Fairfield Township Trustee** \$4,000
- CoBank** \$3,000
- City of West Lafayette** \$2,500
- Indiana University Health Arnett** \$2,500
- Wabash National Corporation** \$2,500
- Archer Daniels Midland** \$2,000
- Newton County Community Foundation** \$2,000
- Darden Foundation** \$2,000

END SENIOR HUNGER

Food Finders' Senior Grocery Program brings monthly deliveries of staple items to seniors at risk of hunger. So far this year, Food Finders has provided nearly 42,000 meals to seniors in need.

We currently host senior grocery programs in five of our 16 counties and are eager to expand this critical program into new counties. Thank you to our Senior Grocery sponsors and host locations: **Newton County Community Services, Jasper County Community Services, Jenks Rest Senior Center, Church of the Heartland, DeMotte State Bank and Peru Housing Authority.**



SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

19,000+ meals & snacks served and counting!



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Return Service Requested



Summer 2017

MARK YOUR CALENDAR 2017 Events at a Glance

July 26: Scotty's Brewhouse Fundraiser
benefitting FFFB

July 28-29: Great Harvest's Christmas in July
benefitting FFFB

August 10: Nourish + Knowledge Luncheon:
*Engaging Volunteers in Community
Collaboration*

August 12: Wea Creek Orchard Apple Pie
Contest & Movie Night benefitting FFFB

August 26: Hunger Action Day with Purdue
CELD

August 26: Beers Across the Wabash
benefitting FFFB

September: Hunger Action Month

Visit us as the West Lafayette Farmers
Market on 9/13, 9/20, & 9/27

September 14: Nourish + Knowledge
Luncheon: *Benefits of SNAP & Debunking
Food Stamp Myths*

September 16-17: Annual HH5K Run &
Hunger Hike

October 12: Nourish + Knowledge
Luncheon: *Food Insecurity & Food Justice*

October 19 - December 1: Drive Away
Hunger Fall Food Drive

November 9: Nourish + Knowledge
Luncheon: *Non-Toxic Charities*

November 22: Feed the Need Day with
Neuhoff Media

November 23: Fleet Feet Sports Thanksgiving
Day Race Against Hunger 5K

For complete event details, visit our
website at www.Food-Finders.org or call
765.471.0062.



Why become a monthly sustaining donor?

It's an easy and convenient way to give. Set up a recurring gift and we will take care of the rest. Your gift can be charged to your credit card (earn some extra points!) or withdrawn from your bank account through a secure transaction. Feel good knowing that each month you are feeding children and families in our community!



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