

INITIATIVES & PROGRAMS



OUR SHOPPING PROGRAM

We provide food to over 220 non-profit member agencies and programs who "shop" at the Foodbank's two warehouses, allowing them to select nutritious foods for their meal, snack, and pantry programs.

PRODUCE INITIATIVE: DISTRIBUTING MORE HEALTHY FRESH FRUIT & VEGETABLES

With increased awareness of the link between diet and health, our top priority is to provide a variety of healthy food. **The Foodbank launched the Produce Initiative to receive and distribute millions of additional pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables.** Because of the increased expenses to refrigerate, transport, and rapidly distribute produce, it costs us \$.30 per pound to handle produce, approximately double the cost of handling non-perishable food.

In only two years, we have more than doubled the amount of fresh produce that we distribute annually—from 750,000 pounds to almost 1.7 million pounds—and we are focusing on continued growth.

In 2006, we launched the new **Mobile Farmers' Market Program, which distributes 6,000 pounds** of in-season fruits and vegetables on a weekly basis to six nutritionally underserved communities countywide.

PROTEIN PROGRAM: MAINTAINING CONSISTENT SUPPLY OF HIGH-PROTEIN FOODS

To ensure we always have a healthy, balance of food available for our member agencies, we are launching the Protein Program. The purpose of this program is to subsidize the price of high-protein staple foods, meat, peanut butter, eggs, tuna fish, rice and beans. Maintaining a steady supply of high-protein food is a challenge for the Foodbank because these items are less available through donations from the food industry and are the most expensive to purchase.

Because of our economies of scale, **the Foodbank can acquire food at a lower cost** than is available to the member agencies we serve. For a food pantry or soup

kitchen on a limited food budget, the subsidy will reduce the price even further, giving them access to a greater variety of nutritious food.

MOBILE FOOD PANTRY: DELIVERING MORE FOOD DIRECTLY TO LOW-INCOME FAMILIES

The Mobile Food Pantry distributes fresh produce and other nutritious food items to over 1,200

families a month in eleven underserved and outlying neighborhoods throughout the county.

CHILDREN'S HUNGER INITIATIVE: FEEDING CHILDREN MOST AT RISK OF HUNGER

Children are 43% of the people we serve and are particularly vulnerable to the long-term effects of hunger during the critical stages of development.

The Foodbank launched the highly successful Backpack Program in 2006 to target children who are at high risk and living in a transitional housing situation and may not know where their next meal is coming from. During the school year,

they receive free lunches and snacks, but they must fend for themselves over the weekend, when food is scarce. We provide each child with a backpack filled with six nutritious, ready-to-eat meals to take home each Friday.

BROWN BAG PROGRAM FOR SENIORS: FEEDING THE ELDERLY PEOPLE MOST IN NEED

Our Brown Bag Programs for Seniors serves low-income elderly people who struggle to pay for housing, health care, and basic needs on fixed incomes.

Providing two bags of groceries each month to supplement their food budgets and to maintain their self-sufficiency for as long as possible.

Over 150 volunteers, many of whom are recipients, are essential to the success of the Brown Bag Program.

Celebrating
25
Years
...of moving PEOPLE from
HUNGER to HARVEST!

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