



Bread of the Mighty
Food Bank
Serving North Central Florida Since 1981

Newsletter
January 2010

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From our Director, Anne Voyles

America is a generous country and the people of Alachua and the surrounding communities are likewise very generous. In fiscal year 2008-09 (Oct 1, 08 – Sept 30, 09), charitable giving to Bread of the Mighty Food Bank (BOTM) reached 1.2 million pounds of food. It is with the generous support of our individual and corporate donors that BOTM, a member of Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief charity, is able to serve over **80,000** individuals (unduplicated count) throughout Alachua, Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy & Lafayette counties.

Peoples' biggest misconception is that their donation won't go very far. They often think that a dollar won't make a difference, but nothing could be further from the truth. For every dollar donated, BOTM can provide up to 10 pounds of food to families in need. In 2009, we distributed over 2,234,346 pounds of food to children, families, individuals and seniors in need of emergency food assistance through a network of 150 agencies. Each year, the Feeding America network of food banks distributes more than 2 billion pounds of food and grocery products to support feeding programs at approximately 63,000 local charitable agencies, including food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, after-school programs and Kids Cafes.

Every dollar, every can of food, is one more step towards ending hunger in our community. Bread of the Mighty Food Bank would like to offer a heartfelt thank you to all of those whose donations make our work possible every single day. Together, we can provide hope to our hungry neighbors.

Anne H. Voyles

2009 Holiday Food Drives

During the 2009 holiday period (Oct 1 – Dec 31) over 160 different groups conducted food drives. The groups included offices (government & private), schools, scout groups, social & service organizations, restaurants, stores, UF student groups, UF offices, colleges & departments, and neighborhoods.



Food drives collected more than 60,000 pounds of food throughout this 3-month period. This is phenomenal and represents an approximate 17% increase over last holiday season. During this same period we distributed 758,463 pounds of food.

At Thanksgiving 136 Thanksgiving boxes were given out directly by BOTM. Network agencies and the Alachua County Sheriff's Department distributed another 146 boxes

BOTM Needs List

- All donations should be non-perishable
- PROTEIN:** Canned tuna, chicken or other meats ~ peanut butter ~ baked beans ~ canned beef stew, chili & other meat based fixings
- FRUITS & VEGETABLES:** Canned vegetables & fruits ~ 100% juice in boxes and cans
- DIARY:** Canned, evaporated or powdered milk ~ shelf-stable regular & soy milk
- OTHER:** Boxed pasta, rice and cereals ~ canned soups ~ macaroni & cheese ~ jelly



PERSONAL HYGEINE ITEMS:
Soaps, shampoo, deodorant

TOILET PAPER

Hats off to Volunteers



BOTM simply could not get the job done without the help of the many, many volunteers who give their time, gifts, energy and enthusiasm to the Food Bank. Volunteers provide a viable service to the agencies and thereby the individuals who are served. We so appreciate their faithfulness, dedication and caring. They are key players in keeping the showroom shelves, freezers and refrigerators stocked, organized and neat, and ensuring that the product is fresh. Volunteers also are important to warehouse operations as they mark and sort the tons of bread and pastry products each week, sort product and assemble food boxes and help pick up food donations. Volunteers perform a myriad of functions – these are just a few.

Special thanks to:

**Warren
Anna
Barbara
Billie
Marty
Bob
Nancy
Mark
Vern & Loretta
Shirley & Hank
Jan & Jerry
Erin**

**University of Florida
(student organizations & individuals,
sororities & fraternities, and class groups)**

We really appreciate very much all that everyone does, and look forward to continuing our relationships. Thank you for all you do to help us to get food to those in need in our community.

Wholesale & Retail Contributors

**Arnolds Bakery
Publix
Food Lion
Winn Dixie
Hitchcocks
Wards Market
WalMart
Sam's Club
Lance, Inc.
Dollar General
Florida Foods
Performance Food Group
Sysco
Fresh Market
Target
Upper Crust
Big Lots
Rainbow Produce
Red Lobster**

During FY 2008-09 these wholesale and retail companies contributed 1.1 million pounds of food to BOTM. This represented approximately 47% of the food BOTM distributed (2.2 million pounds).

The food and other grocery products provided by these generous companies have a significant impact upon the lives of the needy in our community. We are very thankful to each of these companies for their willingness to give.

Major Grants & Gifts Received

During 2009 BOTM was successful in acquiring grants from several private and corporation foundations, including:

**Nationwide Insurance
Gainesville Community Foundation
Publix Charitable
Bastian Foundation
Food Lion
WalMart (13th Street)
WalMart Super Center (Waldo Road)**

In July 2009, the All Faiths Food Bank of Sarasota, Florida, donated to BOTM a refrigerated truck. This was a greatly needed additional to our vehicle fleet, allowing us to receive and distribute greater amounts of perishable foods.

In November, Second Harvest Food Bank of North Florida provided a forklift and a pallet jack to BOTM. This has been a great plus for our warehouse operations.



Feeding the Children

Joe Manasco brought the Kids Café program to Bread of the Mighty and the Gainesville community in September 2007. And, what a blessing it has been to the children of our community.

Summer Lunch Program 2009 Report

The Summer Lunch Program 2009 was a huge success because every day hundreds of hungry children were fed. Summer can be a very hungry time for children who normally rely upon school breakfast and lunch programs to get the food they need to sustain their growing bodies and minds. We had 24 sites serving lunch, as well as either a breakfast or an afternoon snack. These sites operated in some of our neediest neighborhoods. Many were in predominantly low-income, apartment complex areas, and all were within easy walking distance for the children. **In the course of 11 weeks 8,775 breakfasts, 22,926 snacks and 45,891 lunches were served.** This was an overall increase of 45% from last summer.

After-School Snack Program

Kids Café sponsors the Florida Department of Health Child Care Food Program. This program provides free after-school snacks through a network of 14 sites serving approximately 650 children each week throughout the academic school year. Program sites provide after-school care and tutoring to children in neighborhoods where the servicing school has a 50% or higher eligibility rate for free & reduced lunch programs. Through Kids Café these children are receiving critical and nutritious snacks while attending the after-school programs.

Fresh for Kids Initiative

Currently, Kids Café is able to provide fresh produce one day each week from in-house funding. We are seeking grant funding to increase our capability to provide fresh produce 2 – 3 times weekly. If you want to help, contributions earmarked for this initiative are welcome.

US Department of Agriculture Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) Commonly known as “commodities”



BOTM is the administrator for the USDA TEFAP program for Alachua, Dixie, Gilchrist, Lafayette and Levy counties. During FY 2008-09, 827,357

pounds of TEFAP food was distributed throughout our service area. This represents 37% by weight of the food distributed by BOTM. Distributing USDA commodities is accomplished through 31 network agencies and “food drops” conducted by BOTM personnel.

BOTM conducts 28 TEFAP “food drops” serving un-served and under-served neighborhoods and communities in Alachua, Levy and Lafayette counties. This is an innovative service provided by BOTM as food banks do not normally distribute TEFAP commodities directly to individuals. Additionally, at these “drops”, bread and pastry items and other surplus food and grocery products are given out.

USDA TEFAP services are provided in Gilchrist County by the Waccassassa Volunteer Fire Department in Trenton and Bell. And, Dixie County is served by United Christian Center out of Cross City. Both of these agencies are a part of the BOTM network of agencies. We commend these agencies for their service to these outlying communities.



Agency News



We are here to serve you, so you can serve those who are hungry and in need.

We want to thank all the people who run all the food pantries and meal preparation services throughout our network of 150 agencies. Without you, we would not be able to get the food to all the needy people in our area.

Many of you have already met Tyrone Wade our new Agency Specialist. He has been tasked to oversee the processing of new members and annual membership renewals. He also conducts annual sites visits with agencies. Tyrone is responsible for ensuring agency compliance with Feeding America and US Department of Agriculture guidelines in their pantry and/or meal and USDA commodities operations.

Welcome to New Agencies

St. John the Evangelist, St. Vincent de Paul Conference – Chiefland

Orange heights Baptist Church – Orange Heights

Making a Difference Community Center – Gainesville

7th Day Adventist Food Outreach – Interlachen

Power house Faith & Praise Church of God – Gainesville

Cleather Hathcock Community Center - Alachua

Agency Reminders

Agency Activity Reports are a requirement for Food Bank member agencies and are due to the Food Bank office by the 10th of each month.

Bring boxes with you to the Food Bank to pack and transport your product.

Facts & Figures

During FY 2008-09 BOTM distributed 2,234,346 pounds of food.

- 186,196 pounds/month
- At 2 lbs/meal = 93,098 meals/month
- At 3 meals/day = 31,167 days of food provided each month

What do employees do when they can't afford both gas and food?

They drive to work hungry

Latest Census Poverty Figures:

Alachua County: 22.8% people in poverty

Dixie County: 21.6% people in poverty

Gilchrist County: 15.4% people in poverty

Lafayette County: 22% people in poverty

Levy County: 18.5% people in poverty

The local unemployment rate hovers around 8% and represents over 10,000 individuals without an income. This is doubled from a year ago.

The 8% unemployment rate does not fully represent all those individuals who are unemployed or under-employed. Without an income these individuals and their households are struggling to pay for the basics, like the rent and the utilities, and keep adequate food on the table.

It's a fact ~ every dollar and every grocery item you give makes a difference in someone's life.

Would you be interested in receiving this newsletter electronically?

If so, contact our development coordinator, Debie Talbot, at

debie.foodbank@bellsouth.net