

Executive Director: Scott Biehler
Board Chair: Renita Houston



Mayors' Feed the Hungry Program
104 S Pineapple Ave, Sarasota, FL 34236

Summer Update 2025

Website: MayorsFeedtheHungry.org
E-mail: info@mayorsfeedthehungry.org

Message from our Board Chair



Renita Houston

As Board Chair of Mayors' Feed the Hungry, I am proud to champion a mission rooted in compassion and community. Our nonprofit works tirelessly to provide food and essential resources to individuals and families facing hunger across our region. Through partnerships with local governments, schools, and faith-based organizations, we ensure that no one is left behind. Every meal we distribute is a reminder that hope and dignity can be restored through collective action. Together, we are building stronger, more resilient communities, one meal at a time.



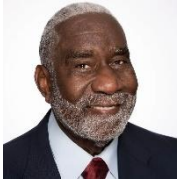
Recent Food Drive Give-A-Way

Mayors' Feed the Hungry Program
PO Box 1992
Sarasota, FL 34230



The Mayors' Feed the Hungry Program is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is to raise funds and collect food to disburse to the local needy, free of charge, through participating non-profit agencies and organizations with special attention given to the Holiday Season.

The Mayors' Feed the Hungry Program Has Been Serving the Community for 39 Years



Former Sarasota
Mayor
Fredd Atkins

The Mayors' Feed the Hungry Program was started by the Mayor of Sarasota, Fredd Atkins, in 1987 as a group of volunteers from faith-based organizations and service clubs to provide meals to the needy at Thanksgiving in the City of Sarasota. Over the years the program has expanded providing food assistance year-round throughout Sarasota and Manatee Counties. We are now whole heartedly endorsed by eight Mayors and both County Commission Chairs.

The Mayors' Feed the Hungry Program is a grass roots organization working with local food pantries and agencies dealing with food insecurity. We are composed of people like you - volunteers from non-profit organizations, religious institutions, and concerned citizens working together to hold food drives, fund raising events and other activities that benefit our participating local food pantries.



Our logo has changed over the years to reflect our progress

We pride ourselves on operating efficiently by keeping our expenses low. Our only employee is the Executive Director. Over the past 38 years, The Mayors' Feed the Hungry Program has distributed more than 650 tons of food and \$4.5 million in gift cards. We rely upon the generosity of public support from donors like you to keep the program going. Thank you for your support!

Check out our New Website

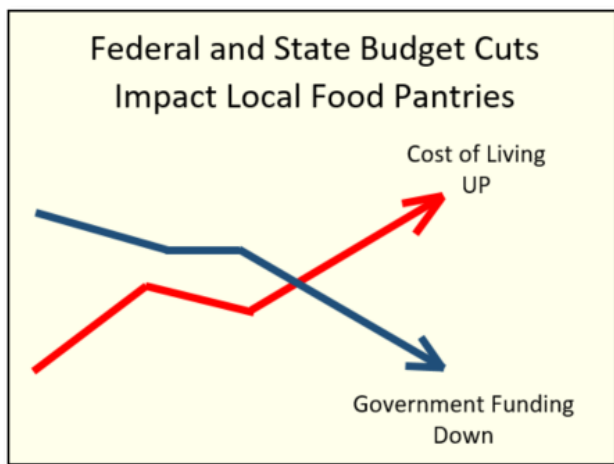
www.mayorsfeedthehungry.org

Our website has a fresh new look. It has been completely redesigned. Take a look and let us know what you think.



Palmetto Mayor
Dan West

As the new Mayor of Palmetto, I've seen firsthand the positive impact that the Mayors' Feed the Hungry Program has in our community. Several of our local food pantries benefit from this incredible organization, which is largely volunteer-driven and relies on the generosity of the public.



Recent cuts in Government budgets combined with inflation are driving up the cost of living. As a result, we are seeing an increase in families coming to our food pantries.

Florida State Budget Cuts: \$13.27 Million in Human Services and \$4.71 Million in Health Services.

Deep cuts to Medicaid: Florida faces approximately \$4 billion less in federal support annually, potentially stripping coverage from around 1 million Floridians. 41% of Manatee residents rely upon Medicaid + Medicare. In Sarasota, 13% rely on Medicaid.

Food Stamps (SNAP): Florida could have to fund 5–15% beginning in 2028. This may reduce benefit levels or participant eligibility. According to recent data, 36,680 people are SNAP recipients in Manatee and 26,404 in Sarasota.

Affordable Care Act Subsidy Rollback: The average ACA insurance premium in Florida is projected to double - affecting an estimated 97% of Florida marketplace enrollees

All of these factors lead to an increase in food insecurity, especially for low income families and seniors. They often have to decide between paying for medications, rent or food.

Did you know . . .

42% of the households in Manatee and 43% in Sarasota qualify as either ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) or poverty-level households. More than 30,000 of these are ALICE households - working parents or individuals who, despite employment, simply don't earn enough to cover basic monthly expenses.

North Port Food Pantry Expands Services



According to Larry Grant, director of Awaken Food Pantry in North Port, "We are currently serving 1,350 families at our walk in food pantry during the week and an additional

750 families at our drive through food line on Friday mornings. The number has been steadily growing."



Manatee Food Security Network

A growing crisis of food insecurity in Manatee County has sparked a new collaboration to ensure no one goes hungry. The Bishop Parker Foundation is sponsoring an initiative to coordinate the efforts of all the different services in Manatee County dealing with food insecurity.

The Mayors' Feed the Hungry Program has been an integral part of this effort along with 50 other agencies to share information and resources.

The result is the formation of a new Manatee Food Security Network. This new program will coordinate efforts to make better use of available resources.



Mayors' Feed the Hungry receives Major Gift from the Bredemeyer Estate

As a child, Beth Bredemeyer and her sister often didn't know where their next meal would come from. Thankfully, both girls were eventually adopted into a loving family, but Beth never forgot the lean times.

As their legacy, to help households right here in our local communities facing food insecurity, Dr. Glenn and Beth Bredemeyer bequeathed \$100,000 to the Mayors' Feed the Hungry Program from their estate.



We are honored and humbled by their gift.

Palmetto Elks Lodge Grant

For the fifth year in a row the Elks Lodge 2449 of Palmetto has given grants to the Mayors' Feed the Hungry Program. In June they presented a check for \$3,000 and hope to make an additional grant by year's end. This gift will directly benefit our food pantries in Palmetto. We sincerely appreciate the generosity and ongoing support of the Elks.



You Too Can Leave a Legacy And Make an Impact

Help us accomplish our mission and feed as many as we can!

- ✓ Consider including the Mayors' Feed the Hungry Program as a beneficiary in your will or life insurance policy.
- ✓ When it comes time to making a required donation from your IRA, designate the Mayors' Feed the Hungry Program for a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution).
- ✓ Designate the Mayors' Feed the Hungry Program as a preference for your Donor Advised Fund.
- ✓ Help support our efforts throughout the year by becoming a monthly donor.

We Appreciate Our Corporate Sponsors

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Services in Kind



Would you like to make a difference? Be part of something special – volunteer or support us financially! We have a variety of volunteer opportunities. You can roll up your sleeves and help at a food pantry, or donate a few hours of your time helping with administrative tasks. Become a corporate sponsor. We want and need your financial support. Every donation helps us meet the needs in our community. Call 941-350-6075, e-mail: info@mayorsfeedthehungry.org or visit our website: www.mayorsfeedthehungry.org.

The Mayors' Feed The Hungry Program, Inc. meets all requirements specified by the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (1-800-435-7352) within the state. Our state registration number is CH3763. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state. Since The Mayors' Feed The Hungry Program, Inc. is administrated by an all-volunteer organization and does not engage professional solicitors, 100% of all gifts are received by the organization. The Mayors' Feed The Hungry Program, Inc. is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization as described in section 501(c)(3), per IRS Letter 1045 dated March 1, 1993. Our Federal IRS identification number is 65-0369363. All contributions are tax deductible as allowed by law.