



COMBATING THE HUNGER (COVID) CRISIS IN OUR BACKYARD

Everglades Community Food Pantry

Role specifically related to the COVID hunger crisis

Our food pantry serves Plantation, Copeland, Chokoloskee and Everglades City. We feed approximately 450-500 weekly people. This has increased by approximately 30%.

Volunteer Needs

At this time we are running the food pantry as a drive thru, which requires much more work from our volunteers. Trying to keep the number of volunteers down. It is running smoothly.

COVID precautions/PPE needs and issues

We have purchased mask and cleaning products, gloves, We would like to help our families with cleaning, paper products. Example : Hand soap, sanitizer etc.

Urgency of volunteer needs

We are doing well although we couldn't have done this without, Collier Harvest, Harry Chapin, world vision, and The Community Foundation.

Contact information for volunteers

Connie Barker: barkerswantan@aol.com | 419-350-6650

Grace Place

Role specifically related to the COVID hunger crisis

The Grace Place Food Pantry has remained open throughout the pandemic, at times serving double the amount of families receiving food each week. In addition, we launched a COVID-19 Relief Fund Campaign raising over \$150,00 that went towards additional food and essential items for our food pantry, PPEs and other safety materials for our food pantry workers and volunteers and \$45,000 going directly to families in the form of grocery gift cards.

Volunteer Needs

Our Friday Food Pantry needs volunteers that are able to lift heavy boxes and be on their feet for several hours. Ideally, these would be volunteer that could commit to weekly or bi-weekly shifts to minimize our training time.

COVID precautions/PPE needs and issues

We ask our volunteers to bring their own masks if possible; however ideally we would like to provide masks or shields and gloves to all volunteers and staff.

Urgency of volunteer needs

We are in need of volunteers that can assist prior to the Food Pantry on Friday morning, unloading trucks and sorting as well as volunteers to work the pantry itself, disseminating food to clients.

Contact information for volunteers

Chrissie Missal: chrissie@graceplacenaples.org | 239-255-7213

Guadalupe Social Services (Immokalee - Catholic Charities of Venice)

Role specifically related to the COVID hunger crisis

Guadalupe Social Services (Immokalee) has continued to serve the community, through our food pantry and soup kitchen since the COVID pandemic began. We are serving hot to-go meals and food bags from our food pantry five days per week. At the Judy Sullivan Family Resource Center (Naples) hundreds of families receive food from our pantry and we are distributing food to different Habitat communities each week. Many of these families have lost employment or income because of the COVID Pandemic.

Volunteer Needs

Judy Sullivan Center is in need of volunteers to pick up donations at different locations each week. Must be able to load/unload and do some heavy lifting. At Guadalupe Social Services, volunteers are welcomed to help with the packing of food bags and breaking down large bags of rice and beans.

COVID precautions/PPE needs and issues

At Guadalupe Social Services and Judy Sullivan Center, all staff and volunteers must use masks and gloves when providing food as well as practice social distancing. Our agency could benefit from additional PPE packets to provide to community members when they come for food.

Urgency of volunteer needs

Our agency would benefit from immediate assistance to both Collier county pantry locations.

Contact information for volunteers

Judy Sullivan Family Resource Center (Naples): allegra.belliard@catholiccharitiesdov.org
Guadalupe Social Services (Immokalee): peggy.rodriguez@catholiccharitiesdov.org

Harry Chapin Food Bank

Role specifically related to the COVID hunger crisis

Harry Chapin Food Bank distributes food for free 21 active independent agencies in our network in Collier County. Typically, our partner agencies get 70% of their food from us. Partners include Grace Place, Salvation Army, St. Matthew's House, Meals of Hope, Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul, Guadalupe Social Services and numerous others. We are operating multiple mobile pantries every week. In recent weeks they have fed around 2,000 families.

Volunteer Needs

Last month, Harry Chapin Food Bank distributed over 1 million pounds in Collier County and total volume is up 137%. We use approximately 3,000 volunteer hours every month in Collier County and opportunities include: Food drives, Virtual food drives, Sorting and inspecting food, Repacking produce, Picking food kits, Volunteering at food distributions, Volunteering at agencies, Acting as skilled volunteers working on food projects, Participating on board committees and working groups.

COVID precautions/PPE needs and issues

We use PPE at our sites and can provide masks and some protective gear.

Urgency of volunteer needs

Need is immediate and on going.

Contact information for volunteers: (If you are a GNL member, let them know.)

Richard LeBer, President & CEO: rleber@harrychapinfoodbank.org | (O) 239-334-7007 x125 | (C) 239-285-5688
Barbara Evans, Chief Development Officer: baevans@harrychapinfoodbanks.org

Meals of Hope

Role specifically related to the COVID hunger crisis

As the President and CEO, I have overall responsibility in regards to our Covid response. I deal with safety of volunteers, staff and clients, purchase food, and find additional locations for distribution of food.

Volunteer Needs

Our volunteers need PPE. Our biggest need right now is volunteers to prepare food for distribution and to help distribute food at our Pantries.

COVID precautions/PPE needs and issues

Everyone is required to wear PPE. We have begun rapid Covid testing every 2 weeks for staff. This way we know that day if anyone is testing positive. This costs approximately \$5,000 per month.

Urgency of volunteer needs

We have purchased over \$460,000 of food since March. Our biggest need is financial. Our main source of revenue - meal packing has come to a complete stop. We need help with operational costs. We have hired 4 additional employees since Covid in order to service all of our Pantries.

Contact information for volunteers: (If you are a GNL Member, please let them know.)

Bobbie Bird: bobbi@mealsofhope.org

Midwest Food Bank

Role specifically related to the COVID hunger crisis

Our role is food procurement and support of our partner agencies.

Volunteer Needs

Volunteer needs would include repacking of bulk food and support of daily operations. Health risks are minimal as long as volunteers follow recommendations. Volunteers spearheading additional food drives and awareness raising would be highly beneficial.

COVID precautions/PPE needs and issues

We provide/recommend masks and frequent hand sanitizing. We also work to ensure proper social distancing within our facility.

Urgency of volunteer needs

Our need is immediate and ongoing.

Contact information for volunteers

Tanya Phillips or Karl Steiniger: 239-690-1722

Mision Peniel Immokalee

Role specifically related to the COVID hunger crisis

Since March 20th and every Friday afternoon thereafter, Misión Peniel has been distributing bags of groceries that include non-perishable food items (rice, beans, protein, pasta...) to anywhere between 275-350 individuals/families each week. We distribute hot meals to 15 homebound clients each week as well. We also receive applications for financial assistance for those affected by COVID-19. We receive grant funds to enable us to provide this assistance.

Volunteer Needs

During this pandemic, we have limited the number of volunteers to six each Friday. We are fortunate to have a very dedicated team that has committed themselves to being there each week.

COVID precautions/PPE needs and issues

Fortunately, we have received thousands of masks; both cloth and disposable for distribution. We continue to require mask usage by both volunteers and those we serve. We are able to provide all with masks if needed. We do need hand and cleaning sanitizer/wipes/sprays, as these are very limited in stores right now. We are doing our best to make sure all surfaces are cleaned every day we are open.

Urgency of volunteer needs

Our need for cleaning supplies isn't URGENT in that we have just enough to keep our doors open each week and ensure cleanliness, but if we hope to open for more days in the coming weeks and months, we will need to find a way to get those cleaning resources.

Contact information for volunteers

Mission email: misionpenielpeacriver@gmail.com, Mission Pastor: miguel@peacriverpresbytery.org

Mission Coordinator: ruth@peacriverpresbytery.org | 386-793-6151 (cell)

Website: www.misionpeniel.com | Facebook: Mision Peniel | Instagram: [misionpenielimmokalee](https://www.instagram.com/misionpenielimmokalee)

Naples Senior Center

Role specifically related to the COVID hunger crisis

Naples Senior Center has focused on meeting the needs of homebound seniors who have limited access and resources to obtain food. We have been making weekly home deliveries of a hot meal and groceries since we closed our facility in March.

Volunteer Needs

Our volunteers have allowed us to serve the community with our home deliveries. We use volunteers for the weekly deliveries, as well as coordinating community food drives in their neighborhood to stock our food pantry with food and household goods. Our volunteers wear masks and gloves and place the food at the client's door and then provide social distancing to have a quick chat and check-in. They do not enter the clients home. Client's that need additional interactions or case management are referred back to the agency.

COVID precautions/PPE needs and issues

Initially we provided our volunteers with mask and gloves, but at this point, they have all obtained their own PPE for daily use and are not in need of supplies from the agency.

Urgency of volunteer needs

Our agency provides weekly deliveries of a hot meal we purchase from an area caterer and a grocery bag with healthy food items specifically designed to be Senior-friendly. Given the current status of Covid-19, many of our food recipients report feeling uncomfortable leaving the home and express reliance on our services to meet their basic food needs. Keeping our pantry stocked with supplemental nutritional shakes, low-sugar, and low-salt items is essential for the population we are serving and there is always an ongoing need for these items.

Contact information for volunteers

Peggy Shupp, Volunteer Service Manager/Food Donations: Pam Malamphy: 239-325-4444

Salvation Army

Role specifically related to the COVID hunger crisis

We are currently providing food at our food pantry by appointment. Since early April we have been working in partnership with United Way to distribute gift cards for food purchases. We felt this was the most effective way to get resources into people's hands quickly and efficiently. We plan to continue with the model for the foreseeable future.

Volunteer Needs

Right now our Volunteer needs are limited as our food pantry is not designed for effective social distancing. Another reason for continuing with the gift card model. We could use some Volunteers in our family store and youth center but in a very limited number.

COVID precautions/PPE needs and issues

We have initiated all CDC and local Collier County precautions and ordinances in our daily operations across all services and departments.

Urgency of volunteer needs

Right now our Volunteer needs are limited but as we approach the Thanksgiving/Christmas holiday period our needs will increase although at this time I can't tell you what that will look like.

Contact information for volunteers

Maria Ramos, Director of Volunteer, Holiday & Senior Services: maria.ramos@uss.salvationarmy.org | 239-210-3076

Captain Ben Bridges, The Salvation Army Naples Regional Coordinate: ben.bridges@uss.salvationarmy.org
Naples Annex Office: 3050 Horseshoe Drive North, Building B, Suite #260, Naples, FL 34104

St. Matthew's House

Role specifically related to the COVID hunger crisis

With the COVID-19 pandemic, St. Matthew's House weekly direct assistance of groceries to those in need has grown to multiple mobile food pantries or food distribution events every week, and the week of August 3rd is our 18th week. In July 2020, over 9,000 families were served compared to 350-400 families served in July 2019.

Volunteer Needs

Contactless food drives and food donations are a great way to help out with minimal exposure to others and therefore limited health risks.

COVID precautions/PPE needs and issues

We require volunteers to wear masks and gloves. They are encouraged to bring their own and we supply them, if needed. Social distancing is also encouraged but challenging to practice at food distribution events, in particular. Frequent handwashing is recommended and hand sanitizer is typically available. Donations of masks, gloves, and hand sanitizer would be very helpful!

Urgency of volunteer needs

Our immediate and most critical need at this time is food donations. Contactless food drives are an excellent way to help out – you can encourage your families, friends, neighbors, church members, co-workers, etc. to donate food. Organizing a specific date, time, and location to drop-off or have ready for pick-up is a great way to get this going. We have seen some communities advertise food drives and ask residents to simply leave bags of groceries by their garages or front doors for pickup by the organizer who then drops off at the St. Matthew's House Donation Center location at 2601 Airport Rd South, Naples, FL 34112. If needed, SMH pick-up can also be arranged.

Contact information for volunteers: (If you are a GNL Member, please let them know.)

Crystal Thomsen, Engagement Coordinator, cthomsen@stmatthewshouse.org | 239-774-0500 x 816
Complete a volunteer application at <https://stmatthewshouse.org/ways-to-help/volunteer/>