

Food2Share



Food2Share



A district wide K-12 service learning project that creates an ongoing, self-sustaining system to address food insecurity in local communities.

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Overview

“Food2Share” is a project that creates an ongoing, self sustaining system of collecting edible food from school cafeterias district wide that would otherwise be thrown away to help support the needs of local food banks. The project promotes awareness of food insecurity and actively involves students on a daily basis in the collection of foods that are of value for those facing food insecurity in our communities.

The project draws upon the work of Stan Curtis, founder of USA Harvest, and David Levitt, who initiated the process of gathering left over prepared foods from his school district in Tampa Bay, Florida, with an initial focus on the collection of milk. David’s work as a young teenager has continued to be the foundation for a large scale food collection process in the Tampa Bay area schools in coordination with Tampa Bay Harvest.

Overview

- The following elements have been incorporated into the project:
 - The Good Samaritan Act
 - Information from Tampa Bay Harvest
 - Information from Tampa Bay School District food service
 - Local Department of Health support and confirmation
 - Local food bank confirmation of need and value of the project
 - USDA perspective and support
 - Enthusiastic support from students, superintendents, principals, teachers, lunch aides and parents
- The long term goal is to spread the project to schools nationwide.





Program Goals

- ❑ Raise awareness of food insecurity in our communities
- ❑ Educate students to distinguish between foods that are trash and those which are not
- ❑ Provide opportunity for schools to give back to the community
- ❑ Supplement community food pantries
- ❑ Reduce food insecurity in our communities
- ❑ Reduce food waste in our schools and local restaurants
- ❑ Promote civic engagement and community building in our schools

Program Benefits

- ❑ Brings people together and builds community
- ❑ Makes us responsible to each other
- ❑ Provides real life learning experience
- ❑ Allows everyone to contribute
- ❑ Is cost effective
- ❑ Requires simple organizational skills



Program Benefits

Raising our children to take these actions on a daily basis will produce a generation of adults who will understand the need for these actions and the practical means of execution to meet the need for food and conserve waste. The educational components of the service learning project serve to root these concepts in deeper understanding and awareness of the comprehensive value of these actions.





USDA – A Citizen’s Guide to Food Recovery*

Why Food Recovery Is Necessary

□ **Fighting Hunger and Poverty**

- Despite the bounty of our agricultural production here in the United States, one of our most complex and serious health problems is hunger.
- Eliminating hunger is a moral issue, driven by compassion for others, as well as a practical issue involving the long-term future of millions of our Nation's children.
- Chronic hunger and malnutrition take a heavy toll on children's lives. Days missed from school, inattention in class, stunted growth, and frequent illness jeopardize their education and their futures as productive citizens.
- In fact, a study by the Community Childhood Hunger Identification Project reports that most low-income families must receive food assistance from several sources, relying on Federal food assistance programs as well as emergency food programs.
- Other studies also confirm the need for both food recovery programs and Federal food assistance programs. For example, 90 percent of low-income households with at least one child under the age of 12 use food pantries and soup kitchens and also participate in the School Lunch Program.
- Even with Federal assistance and the work of charities and nonprofit organizations, last year nearly 20 percent of the requests for emergency food assistance went unmet.

□ **Ending Food Waste**

- Food recovery is one creative way to help reduce hunger in America. It supplements Federal food assistance programs by making better use of a food source that already exists.
- Up to one-fifth of America's food goes to waste each year, with an estimated 130 pounds of food per person ending up in landfills. The annual value of this lost food is estimated at around \$31 billion. But the real story is that roughly 49 million people could have been fed by those lost resources.

* Source: <http://www.usda.gov/news/pubs/gleaning/content.htm>

USDA - Ongoing Food Recovery Activities*

- Currently, more than 10 percent of the U.S. population depends on nonprofit food distribution organizations for a significant part of their nutritional needs.
- In the United States, it is estimated that there are 150,000 such private programs helping to feed the hungry. Virtually all these programs use recovered food. While their strategies and emphases may differ, they all operate under two common assumptions that:
 1. From fields to markets to tables, the Nation wastes an abundance of edible food; and
 2. This food can be collected and redirected to feed the hungry.



* Source: <http://www.usda.gov/news/pubs/gleaning/content.htm>



United States
Department of
Agriculture

MAY 12 2008

Food and
Nutrition
Service

Ms. Sandy McKane
Oneonta Service Learning Project
7 Highland Street
Oneonta, New York 13820

3101 Park
Center Drive

Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

Dear Ms. McKane:

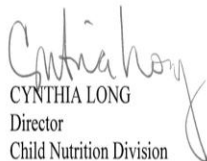
This is in response to your letter to Deputy Secretary Chuck Conner on April 23, 2008, regarding the proposed expansion of the Food2Share gleaning project in schools nationwide. Your letter has been forwarded to this office because we administer the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) at the Federal level and have previously addressed your inquiry regarding the use of excess food in the lunch program.

We share your concern to ensure that no school food goes to waste, and commend your efforts to engage schools and students in efforts to help the needy through school-based food recovery programs. We recognize that food recovery from schools, conducted appropriately, can make a substantial contribution towards reducing hunger in America. The Department has issued a "Best Practice" manual to support gleaning projects in schools.

However, our primary objective in operating the NSLP is to ensure that schools produce nutritious meals in a cost-effective manner. As you may know, schools operating the NSLP run a nonprofit food service operation and, therefore, must plan and prepare enough food to offer one meal per child per day. Although schools occasionally have leftover food, they must reuse these leftovers in the program to keep food costs down and reduce waste. This is particularly important today with the rising cost of food. Schools can make excess food available to a food bank or other community or school organization, in a manner permitted by the State or local public health department, but they are not expected to have leftovers on a regular basis.

Again, thank you for your efforts to assist those in need

Sincerely,


CYNTHIA LONG
Director
Child Nutrition Division

USDA

Letter of Support



Elementary School Beginnings

We need to begin with kindergarteners.

Repetition throughout elementary grades accomplishes the goal of establishing mindful habits.

Daily actions supported by:
graphing local food need statistics,
reflective writing and
yearly celebrations

embed the awareness of practical solutions to address food insecurity in our communities and beyond.

Student Information

The Need:

- There are people who need food in our community.
- Not everyone has enough food every day.
- There are people who worry that they will be hungry and not be able to get enough food to feed their families.
- There are food banks that help people in need of food.
- Food banks need help because government funds are not meeting the need for food in our community.
- Everyone can help.



Student Information

First things first:

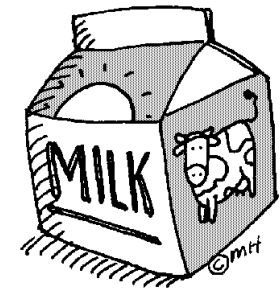
- It's important to eat and eat healthy foods.
- We need to eat so we are not hungry.
- When we are finished, instead of throwing everything in the trash we can check for possible food donations.



Student Information

What can be donated:

- Unopened milks – we want you to drink your milk, but if you can't or don't feel like it, please don't throw it out if it is unopened because it can help someone else.
- Whole fruits like apples, oranges, bananas, etc.
- Sealed snacks: just like Halloween, only factory sealed snacks
- You can also bring canned foods or non perishables from home to donate as well if you like.
- Some students buy a snack to donate: just make sure this is OK with your parents.
- Some students wanted to give money, but only food can be donated.
- Remember – always eat to fuel your body and then when you approach the trash area check for food that could be donated before you throw things in the trash can. There will be a food bin for you to place donated foods that could help others in need.



Student Involvement Options

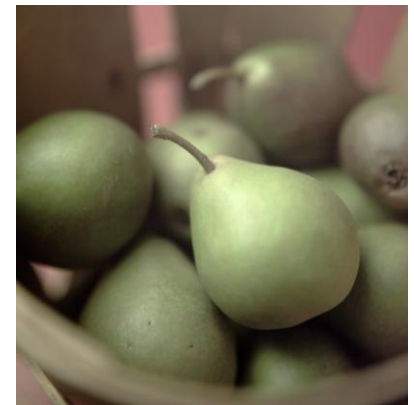
Our children can learn about this need and begin contributing at an early age.

- Kindergartners have been given the opportunity to place the Food2Share sign out at the beginning of the lunch period, taking turns with the responsibility.
- In some schools, sixth graders have been responsible for bagging food for the volunteers to pick up at the end of the day, or taking food from the cafeteria collection bin to a designated refrigerator during the lunch period to maintain ideal temperature



What kids have to say about Food2Share

- ❑ The program prevents us from throwing away perfectly good food and it goes to the people who need it more than we do.
- ❑ It is the easiest way for a person in elementary school to help someone.
- ❑ I'm glad that our school is participating in the Food2Share program because it is an opportunity to help make Oneonta a better place to live.
- ❑ A lot of children give food every day and I think that this is really something to be proud of! Everyone loves this program in our school.



What kids have to say about Food2Share

- ❑ I think that the Food2Share program is a great way to save food. This program is a great way to give other people the food that you were going to throw out. I learned that you shouldn't throw away food that you are not going to eat!! Save the food for someone who needs it.
- ❑ I think this program should be in schools all around the U.S. I hope that after you read this you will be raising food with the Food2Share program
- ❑ Anyone can make a difference. Food2Share just makes sharing a little easier!



What kids have to say about Food2Share

- I believe Food2Share is one of the best programs that have come to our town. We are donating clean and fresh food to our fellow citizens. It makes me proud to know that I might be helping to save someone's life or keep them healthier by giving food that I'm not going to eat.
- A fifth grader asked her mom if she could have 35 cents for milk that day. She told her mom, "I'm buying 5 for the food bank with my allowance money. It's something I want to do." She had already calculated 35cents times 5 equals \$1.75 needed from her allowance, and wanted her mom to pay for her milk for lunch.
- Another fifth grader said, "When we were told that we couldn't put money in the basket my friend was upset. I told her to buy something with it and put it in the basket. So she bought a bag of pretzels and put it in the basket."



What parents have to say about Food2Share

- I have really enjoyed working with this project and feel it is so needed. My son is getting a grasp on what it is and what it does. In a day and age where kids have too much, it is something like this that shows them it's not that way for everyone.



Lunch Aide Comments

Lunch aides help to monitor the students and help them identify foods that can be donated

- “There is so much food waste. I’ve seen it for years and it’s always upset me.”
- “It’s a relief to know the food is not going in the garbage.”
- “This is a great idea!”



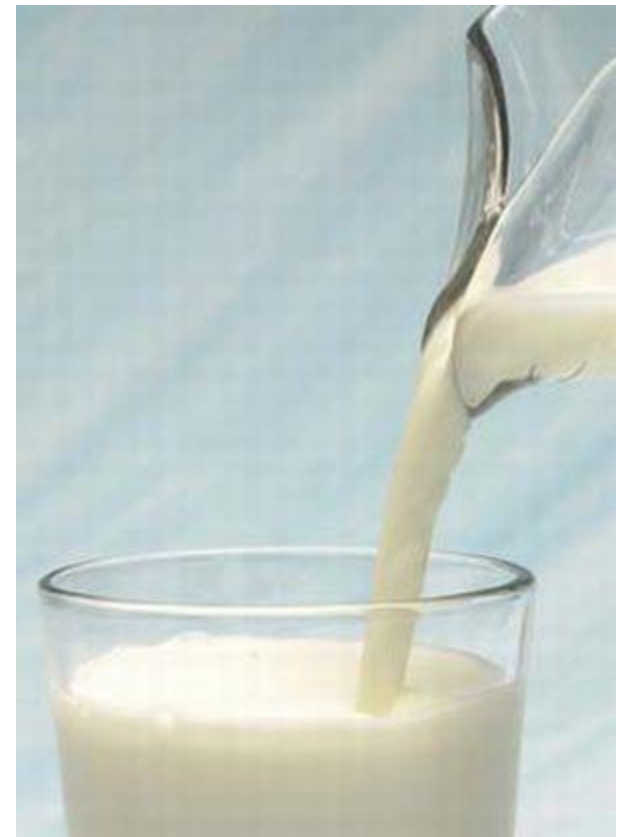


Teacher Comment

“ I never thought about it;
we collect food at certain times of the year,
but the need is year round”.

Food Bank Response

- “Milk is rare. It’s wonderful to get and a lot of people ask for it, and we can’t provide it usually.”
- “The milk is fantastic – much better than powdered milk. It’s a great present. Please tell the children the families are thrilled. It’s been impossible for us to do fresh milk. There were 200 families this month; 579 individuals.”





Rural Health Network Director Perspective

“This program puts a face on food insecurity
that a centralized system can’t.
There are more relationships”



Setting up the program

- Principal
 - Contact food bank to confirm need and introduce program coordinator
 - Introduce program to staff and assign a program coordinator
 - Introduce the project to students: 5 minute assembly presentation with time for a few questions/clarifications
- Program Coordinator
 - Contact food bank to set up delivery schedule
 - Solicit volunteers to transport the food to the food bank
 - Organize volunteer schedule:
 - 2-3 weekly pickups are usually sufficient depending on the size of the refrigeration unit at the school and the student population
 - 2-3 volunteers assigned to pick up day can work among themselves to cover specific days; most volunteers have their children take the food into the food bank to strengthen their service awareness
 - Recruit students to make Food2Share signs
 - Identify cooler placement and any logistics for refrigeration
- Volunteers (Students, Lunch Aides, Parents)
 - Place bin, cooler or refrigerator with project title sign in cafeteria at beginning of each lunch period in a location near the trash can.
 - Adult program support at the trash area is very helpful in forming mindful habits
 - Bag donated food to ready for volunteer pick-up
 - Pick up bagged food and deliver to food bank

Sample Food2Share sign for the cafeteria (made by elementary students)





THE SALVATION ARMY

FOUNDED IN 1865 BY WILLIAM BOOTH

ONEONTA CORPS

25 RIVER STREET
ONEONTA, N. Y. 13820-2340
PHONE (607) 432-5960
FAX (607) 441-7311

Sample Monthly Donation Report

August 16, 2007

Sandy McKane
7 Highland Street
Oneonta, NY 13820

Dear Sandy:

The poundage for the month of March, 2007 is as follows:

<u>Center Street School</u>	<u>691bs 0oz</u>	<u>\$34.55</u>
<u>Hartwick College</u>	<u>1511bs 4oz</u>	<u>75.52</u>
<u>Middle School</u>	<u>301bs 11oz</u>	<u>15.05</u>
<u>Riverside School</u>	<u>441bs 2oz</u>	<u>22.01</u>
<u>Valleyview School</u>	<u>651bs 2oz</u>	<u>32.51</u>
<u>Elena's Sweet Indulgence</u>	<u>174lbs</u>	<u>87.00</u>
		\$266.64

The number of households we helped with food in March, 2007 was 188 and there were 535 individuals.

Thank you and may God bless you.

Sincerely,

Sharon Haines

Classroom Components

- Fifth Grade Graphing
 - “After doing several days of having the students create their own graphs, I let them loose on a website for graph making. After making one graph with only our school’s data, I had them try to figure out how to add the college donation data; they did this with no problem. Our graphs each compared our school with the college, but you can combine several sets of data. They loved it, and asked to go back to do more!”

We used a table showing Food 2 Share donations from various Oneonta schools and Hartwick College to make these graphs.



Classroom Components

- 6th Grade Reflective Writing Assignment
 - The assignment was to write 3 quality paragraphs about the Food2Share program:
 - Explain what it's all about
 - Describe how it works here at our school
 - Your personal response to the program



Important Perspective

- It's important to remember and emphasize:
 - There is not a competitive aspect to this program, either between schools or with past “performance”.
 - Our first priority is for our children to eat and then make a decision when they are finished. Any contribution is significant, even if only one item was given to someone who was hungry, instead of thoughtlessly thrown in the trash.





Building on Elementary School Experience

- Grades 7, 8: Free Rice global donations and beginning involvements with grocery store donations
- Grades 9, 10: Grocery Store Donations
- Grades 11, 12: Restaurant Donations

Free Rice

Grades 7/8

Freerice.com is a website where vocabulary is exercised and strengthened. Rice is donated to developing nations through the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) based on correct vocabulary answers.

- Preparation: Visit poverty.com for class discussion.
- Action: Visit thehungersite.com to donate a cup of food to an impoverished person. Then go to freerice.com to play the vocabulary game and provide rice to support the global need for food.
- Reflection: Write a personal reflection on global food insecurity.
- Celebration: Share total rice donated and vocabulary scores in a school wide assembly and with the community.



Teacher Response to Free Rice:

“The kids went nuts with it!”

- ❑ It's like a video game where students are driven by the positive reinforcement of rice given.
- ❑ The beauty of it is that it hits every level; I have kids who have poor language skills yet the levels on freerice.com meet their need.
- ❑ Students can chart their progress in the vocabulary levels.
- ❑ Students were very excited to play the game knowing they were increasing their language skills and that they were helping people around the world.
- ❑ Some librarians are having contests to see who can stay at the highest level the longest.



Grocery Store Donations Grades 9/10

Dialogue with a food bank/pantry can reveal specific food item needs that community members can help to provide. Too often we make assumptions about need and give in a random manner. The food bank/pantry may be in need of tuna fish or peanut butter, but receive donations of pasta and baked goods. While all donations are appreciated, needful items may be difficult to supply.

“ I ask for specific items in the church bulletin but we don’t receive them. We have lots of spaghetti but people still bring spaghetti because they always bring spaghetti.”

St. Mary’s Food Pantry



Grocery Store Donations Model

- ❑ Gather a specific “shopping list” from the food pantry or food bank.
- ❑ Create a check-off list based on the needed items.
- ❑ Display the list at the grocery store entrance with information about food insecurity in the community. Display 5th grade graphing.
- ❑ As community members donate requested items, the number of items needed would be checked off on the chart to reflect new totals
- ❑ Before leaving the store, the grocery store could donate any frozen or dairy items reaching their due date, reducing hauling costs for the store and organic waste.
- ❑ All donated items would be transported to the food bank/pantry where students stock the shelves, supporting staffing needs at the food bank/pantry.
- ❑ The process would repeat weekly and vacation weeks could be managed by volunteers in the community during these times. Students would create this schedule and solicit needed volunteers.

Restaurant Donations

Grades 11/12

Older students can expand their participation through advocacy work with community restaurants; to share the model and stimulate participation – helping to form relationships between restaurants and the food bank.

One of the important elements is to secure volunteer transport: often people say that they would like to help those in need in the community, but they don't know how or don't have a lot of time.

This can also be an easy way for local business people or restaurant employees to help by dropping off food to the food bank on their way home from work.



Elena's Sweet Indulgence

Since 2005, Elena's restaurant has donated over 6,000 pounds of food using restaurant quality microwavable take-out containers. The food bank director commented that this food is life saving, as senior citizens are especially inspired to eat prepared food in contrast to canned or dried food.





Restaurant Donations Model

High school students would take on the responsibility of establishing and maintaining restaurant donations:

- Research restaurants in the community.
- Share Elena's example.
- Create/confirm volunteer support to take the food to the food pantry/food bank: Share NYC Street Fleet with community members to stimulate volunteer participation.

Results and Implications

- Since 2005, with four elementary schools, one middle school, a college food service and Elena's restaurant contributing to the formation of Food2Share, we have collected over 14,000 pounds of food. The potential for expansion in this single community is tremendous. Although food insecurity has been the primary focus of the project, the benefits have expanded to reduce 14,000 pounds of organic waste from reaching our landfills.
- Expanding Food2Share to a nationwide embrace would provide some commonality of experience for our children while addressing food insecurity on a large scale. Nurturing civic engagement and community building in this content area will provide a base for more service learning projects that place our youth in leadership roles now, paving the way for a significantly changed future as they emerge into the adult arena.





Food Donations

- 2006-2007 school year:
 - Oneonta City Schools: 1167 pounds
 - Hartwick College: 1022 pounds
 - Elena's Sweet Indulgence: 2424 pounds
 - Total Food2Share contribution: 4614 pounds

- 2005-2006 school year:
 - Oneonta City Schools: 2658 pounds
 - Hartwick College: 1196 pounds
 - Elena's Sweet Indulgence: 2558 pounds
 - Total Food2Share contribution: 6412 pounds



K-12 Involvements

- K-12:
 - Daily Cafeteria Donations
 - Graphs of donations updated monthly in cafeterias
 - Yearly assemblies to celebrate project success
- Grade 5: Graphing
- Grades 3, 6, 8,12: Written reflections
- Grades 7, 8:
 - Free Rice donations and vocabulary building
 - Begin grocery store donations training with high school students
- Grades 9,10: Grocery Store Donations
- Grades 11,12: Restaurant Donations



Yearly Project Components:

- Food2Share coordinators:
 - Organize volunteer schedule for the year:
 - Fall School Assembly:
 - Inform students of their contribution last year to jumpstart the program for the year
 - Acknowledge all volunteers (invite them to the assemblies, including lunch aides)
 - Disseminate information to lunch aides if they could not attend and thank them for their help
- Teachers:
 - Grade 5: Graph district and community food donations in relation to the number of individuals and families receiving food from the food bank/pantries.
 - Update graphs each month as records come from the food bank/pantry.
 - Display in cafeteria as a constant reminder of this needed contribution.
 - Use for grocery store donation display.
 - Grades 3, 6, 8, 12: Write personal reflections on contributions, solutions and need.
 - Grades 7, 8: Free Rice: Track rice donations and share at yearly celebration.
 - Grades 9, 10: Establish and maintain grocery store model.
 - Grades 11,12: Establish and maintain restaurant donations based on Elena's model.



K-12 Service Learning Outline

□ **Preparation**

- School wide assembly introduction to food insecurity as a community need and how everyone can help in the Food2Share program. Once the program is up and running the celebration can occur in the fall and become the preparation and kick-off for the new year of contribution.

□ **Action**

- Daily opportunity at mealtime to participate in the program (K-12)
- 5th grade graphing of donations and community need from the previous year
- Free Rice donations while building vocabulary (7th, 8th)
- Gathering donations of items requested by local food pantries and food banks at grocery store locations (9,10)
- Gathering and sharing statistics with the community to heighten awareness in the community
- Advocacy work with community restaurants to stimulate their participation based on Elena's model (11,12)

□ **Reflection**

- Writing reflection assignment at two grade levels to deepen awareness of participation and contribution (3,6,8,12)

□ **Celebration**

- Food bank representatives come to school assemblies every fall to share the impact of student giving from the previous year and help to kick off the new year of student participation
- Invite local news to publicize student work and contribution, providing on-going educational awareness for adult community members

Tampa Bay Area School Food Service Donation Guidelines

Over 100 schools in the Tampa Bay area donate food

Pinellas County School Food Service Department

Procedure Manual

Effective Date: 08/00

Review Date: 06/05

Revise Date: _____

Chapter 7 Operations

7.5 Production/Service

7.5.iii. Tampa Bay Harvest

FOOD STORAGE GUIDELINES FOR DONATED FOODS

1. All donated foods must be in clean containers (washed, rinsed & sanitized) or sealed plastic bags (twist-tie, knotted or zip-lock.)
2. Food which is prepared one day, stored overnight, then served the next day (as a choice), must be immediately frozen and provided to the nonprofit agency in the frozen state.
3. Non-potentially hazardous foods that are packaged or are in the original containers may be provided to the agency with no further preparation. (Example: crackers, PC juice.)
4. Tossed vegetable salads (without dressing) should be packaged in clean plastic bags and sealed tightly.
5. Plastic bags are not to be re-used.
6. Fluid milk may be donated, in the original container, in the frozen state.
7. Other potentially hazardous foods are not to be donated. These items should be destroyed. (Examples: meat-salads, casseroles containing milk or fresh eggs, custards.)
8. It is the responsibility of the non-profit agency to transport foods safely, in a timely manner, and at the proper temperatures:
 - Hot foods must be kept at 140 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.
 - Cold foods must be kept at 41 degrees Fahrenheit or lower.
 - Frozen foods must be kept at 0 degrees Fahrenheit or lower.

Hartwick College Food Donation Policy

- ❑ **“FOOD2SHARE” is a group of students, here at Hartwick College, who have asked us to help them in providing for a local food bank. They have chosen the Salvation Army’s food pantry and meal system to donate to.**
- ❑ **We save food for donation only during normal semester weeks for Monday through Friday pickups.**
- ❑ **Almost all of our breakfast and lunch leftovers are utilized and therefore, hardly amount to anything worth a donation. We DO have enough *unusable* leftovers after dinner to donate however.**
- ❑ **After we shut down our dinner stations at 8:05pm(Sun->Thrs) , production employees are bagging (in one-gallon Ziploc bags) any leftovers worth donating. The employees then label the bags as to what the entrée or food item is, and date them. We then collect all bags on a sheet tray or hotel pan and put them in our walk-in freezer for a next day pickup (“Food2share” provides volunteers for this).**
- ❑ **The leftovers we donate are the leftovers that were previously thrown out. This does not include full pans, or close-to-full pans that are saved for utilization within the safe allotted time. The ONLY food we donate is the UNUSABLE food!**
- ❑ **The Manager In Charge (Shift Supervisor) and/or Executive Chef and/or Production Lead for the shift oversees what we throw out, what we are to donate, and what we need to save for future production.**



National and State Law Support

Tampa Bay Harvest

National and State Laws help encourage food donations!

- The Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act provides uniform national protection to those that act in good faith to donate, recover and distribute excess food. Likewise, Florida has enacted legislation that specifically addresses the liability for canned or perishable food distributed free of charge. According to ss.768.136 (2) and (3), the Florida Statutes state:
- (2) "A good faith donor or gleaner of any canned or perishable food, apparently fit for human consumption, to a bona fide charitable or non profit organization for free distribution shall not be subject to criminal penalty or civil damages arising from the condition of the food, unless an injury is caused by the gross negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct of the donor or gleaner."
- (3) "A bona fide charitable or nonprofit organization, or any representative or volunteer acting on behalf of such organization or an uncompensated person acting in a philanthropic manner providing services similar too those of such an organization, which accepts, collects, transports, or distributes any canned or perishable food, apparently fit for human consumption, from a good faith donor or gleaner for free distribution shall not be subject to criminal penalty or civil damages arising from the condition of the food, unless an injure s caused by the gross negligence, recklessness, or intentional misconduct of an agent of the charitable or nonprofit organization."