

Event Highlight: Empty Bowls



**Empty Bowls is a national grassroots event that raises money for hunger relief.**

This unique event invites the public to “eat simply, so others can simply eat.” Old School Bakery provides rustic breads and 30 local chefs donate their signature soups, all served by local celebrities. Guests share in a simple meal of bread, soup, and water. Each receive a unique bowl to take home as a powerful reminder of all the empty bowls in the community. In an effort to adjust to the “new normal” this year, guests had the option to purchase tickets online and participate in an extraordinary drive-through and online virtual experience. Each ticket provided one pint of soup from our local amazing restaurants and fresh-baked bread from Old School Bakery, as well as other sponsored goodies in an insulated cooler bag.

To learn more about upcoming events, service opportunities, and fundraisers, visit [pbcfoodbank.org](http://pbcfoodbank.org).

7,789

People we helped with food assistance applications

39,237

Lois' Food4Kids bags distributed

955

Nutrition Driven program graduates

\$50,000

Distributed for Project Thanksgiving

Unite Against Hunger in 2021!

The impact of COVID-19 is still growing—our community is dealing with increased illness, job loss, and especially, hunger. Please help meet this urgent, rising need by sending your first gift of 2021 today, using the enclosed response card. Thank you for helping us stand against hunger in Palm Beach County!

**Do you, or does anyone you know, need help finding food right now?**

Visit [pbcfoodbank.org](http://pbcfoodbank.org) to find a list of over 140 partner agencies located across the county.



United to End Hunger!

Palm Beach County Food Bank 2020 Annual Report



Our Year of Change, Compassion, and Survival

When COVID-19 hit our nation in March, life here in Palm Beach County turned upside-down. In just two weeks, schools, businesses, and restaurants closed their doors. Except for frontline and essential workers, we all moved into isolation, hoping and praying that the pandemic would end quickly.

But as the months stretched on, our community has come together to survive one of the most challenging crises we've ever experienced. **Food insecurity has surged beyond what we could have ever expected ...** and yet friends and partners like you have stepped forward with remarkable commitment.

Together, we've served 3 times more hungry people this year than ever before!

Each person you've helped serve has a name, has a story, and has HOPE, thanks to you. **Here are a few of their stories\*:**

*"I've been struggling with very serious medical issues for years, like congestive heart failure and COPD. That means I'm at high risk for COVID-19, so my doctor has kept me in isolation at home since March. I haven't been able to work, so I can barely afford my medication, much less food every month.*

*I was so afraid. But then I heard about PBCFB and reached out for help. Through a food pantry in my neighborhood, they've made sure I have healthy food to eat. I used to go hungry sometimes, but now I have enough every single day. It's like a miracle. I don't know what I would do without them."* – Lucille

*"When COVID-19 happened, I lost both of my waitressing jobs. I'm a single mom, and I've always done everything I have to do to make sure my kids have what they need. It's hard to talk about, but there's nothing like knowing you're putting your kids to bed hungry. They tried to be so brave. But my heart just broke.*

*I couldn't believe it when I heard that PBCFB was providing free food—good food, the kind of food my kids really needed. I started going to this drive-by food pantry, and they'd give me enough groceries for a whole week at a time. My kids were so excited. They learned to help me cook! Now, I have a good job working for a medical company at home. I can't wait until I've saved up enough to give back. You were there for us when we needed you."* – Jaslyn

525 Gator Drive | Lantana, FL 33462 | [pbcfoodbank.org](http://pbcfoodbank.org)

JOB CODE	COMPONENT	SIZE+SPECS	STOCK	PRINTS
PBCFB0121	NEWSLETTER OUTSIDE Jan 2021 Impact Report  > All Versions	> 11" x 17" > Folds in 1/2 to: 8.5" x 11" > Then folds in 1/3 to: 8.5" x 3.5"	70# white gloss	4CP > CMYK

\*Names have been changed to protect privacy



# A Message from Our CEO

Friends and partners,

We've looked forward to sending you this Annual Report! The number of neighbors you've helped over the past year is just astounding, especially when we take into account the increased need.

Think millions of pounds of food rescued, collected, and distributed to the hungry in Palm Beach County ... hundreds of thousands of neighbors fed when they needed help most ... and hundreds of faithful volunteers coming together to safely care for our community.

That's why we've chosen a specific theme for this year's report: United to End Hunger. I feel it exemplifies the way we work together here at PBCFB, as well as the heart of who we are and what we do.

I hope you will take time to carefully read through this 2020 Annual Report. It's our way of transparently sharing how your gifts are being used to fight and end hunger across Palm Beach County. We will always be clear about the use of every dollar partners like you give, and work to steward it wisely; even more, we will share the reality of the lives you change every day.

I know you'll enjoy and be encouraged by these real-life stories and statistics, interaction with our staff, volunteers, and community, and be inspired to walk with us as we change lives together in 2021.

At PBCFB, we are UNITED in compassion ... in determination ... in hope ... and in purpose.

Thank you for your support!

James Greco  
Interim CEO

# COVID-19 Update

## Safely Serving Neighbors in Need



Here at the Palm Beach County Food Bank, the health and well-being of all those we serve—and our team—is of the utmost importance. The COVID-19 pandemic has presented unique challenges, and we've adjusted to meet each need. Our already-stringent sanitation procedures have been augmented by social distancing and

additional recommendations from the CDC and the State of Florida. **We're keeping our PBCFB family safe!**

The pandemic has also exponentially increased the number of hungry people seeking help. Thanks to you, we are continuing to serve our network of food pantries and others who are providing food to children, seniors, and hardworking families ... all of whom have additional needs in this unprecedented time.

We can't predict when the pandemic will draw to a close or how long it will take our economic situation to recover. But we CAN make sure that everyone who comes to us will get the nutritious food they need when they need it most!

**Your help matters now.** If you would like to help, please send a gift today using the enclosed response card and envelope. You can also donate at [pbccfoodbank.org/donate](http://pbccfoodbank.org/donate). Thank you!

## The Harsh Reality of 2020

- More than 300,000 people in Palm Beach County don't know where they'll get their next meal.
- 60,000 children and 60,000 senior adults are currently food insecure.
- PBC is the 10th largest school district in the U.S., and 60% of our school-aged children qualify for free or reduced-price lunch. Those meals are often the only food they eat each day.
- The unemployment rate in Palm Beach County is TRIPLE what it was in 2019.
- Grocery prices have increased an average of 3.5% due to pandemic supply disruptions.

# Volunteers and Donors: The 2020 Heroes of PBCFB

This year, like every year, we must remember the phenomenal volunteers who choose to share their precious time and energy fighting hunger in our community. **These men and women are the driving force against food insecurity, standing strong against hunger on a daily basis.**

When schools quickly closed in March, the more than **six in ten children who depend on free or reduced-price breakfast and lunch lost access to this vital source of food.**



Many school districts created plans to provide meals as a drive-up service, but thousands of children simply didn't have access to this critical food source.

**Lois Pope, one of our longtime volunteers and donors, stepped in with an immediate \$1 million donation to**

**fill that food gap ...** and because she wholeheartedly believes in the joy of serving together, she also created a \$50,000 Social Media Match. Every time someone liked or shared one of her posts about the PBCFB or Lois' Food4Kids program, Lois donated \$1. Together, our friends and partners met the match and raised awareness for hunger in our area!

Lois shared, *"No child should go hungry, here in Palm Beach County or anywhere else in this country. You and I have a responsibility to ensure that the children in our community have access to nutritious meals on a daily basis, especially when schools are closed. Frankly, we don't know what will happen next because of the pandemic, so we need to be prepared. Please, join me in this vitally important effort!"*

**Here's how YOU can get involved:**

- Host a food drive in your neighborhood
- Volunteer at the PBCFB
- Prep food and stuff backpacks for Lois' Food4Kids program
- Donate financially

**Together, we are UNITED to end hunger for good!**

# THANK YOU for Feeding Hungry Neighbors

In 2020, the Palm Beach County Food Bank operated these programs with a network of almost 200 partner agencies. Together, we provided critical access to food for more than 300,000 individuals in need every month.

**Food Recovery and Distribution:** We collected, recovered, and distributed more than 11 million pounds of food AT NO COST to our community partner agencies like pantries, soup kitchens, and residential facilities in Palm Beach County.

**Lois' Food4Kids:** Our year-round weekend feeding program expanded to feed more than 1,200 children at 17 different sites every day, filling the nutritional gaps left by closed schools and less-accessible school feeding programs.

**Benefits Outreach:** We assisted more than 7,000 individuals and families in applying for federal food assistance benefits, which has become increasingly important with the job loss created by COVID-19.

**Thank you for your compassion—none of these programs would be possible without you!**



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