

Healthy Harvest HAPPENINGS

Spring 2020

A Legacy in the Making

The word legacy, defined, is something that happens or exists as a result of things that happened at an earlier time. As I walked around the outside of the new food bank facility on one of the warmer days recently, I found myself thinking about all that we have accomplished at the organization in the last few years and the sheer magnitude of what we are currently doing and what we will do in the future.

Kathy Calvin once said, "Giving is not just about making a donation, it's about making a difference." At Healthy Harvest Food Bank, we make a difference every single day. We may not see the result immediately, but we know that the work we do has lightened someone's burden. It is that knowledge that drives the passion for our work and our plans for the future.

Hunger DOES NOT discriminate. There are countless faces and stories behind the data. It's often job loss in a poor economy, a college student who doesn't know where their next meal will come from, a health crisis resulting in lost wages or the inability to stretch low wages to cover basic needs, making hunger relief crucial. However, **SOLVING** hunger is complex, which is why we work every day with that goal in mind.

We are more than just a food distribution warehouse, we are a source of pet food and supplies for local animal shelters, we are the fresh produce provider for Bay Aging's Meals on Wheels distribution to the elderly and homebound, we provide food to RCC's campus pantries, we are the catalyst of a partnership in the fight against chronic illness.

We are **DEDICATED** to being at the center of **CHANGE** for generations to come. We will teach children self-sufficiency, leading them away from poverty. We will teach individuals with chronic illness that the right food can transform their health, shattering the myth that medication is the only answer. We are moving forward and gaining momentum to **BOLDLY** bridge the gap between food-insecurity and education and **EMPOWER** those who need us most.

As we quickly reach our 10-year anniversary this summer, I am reminded of something a very wise man once told me. My dad, John Lea, who passed away 6 years ago, told me that if you love what you do, you'll never work a day in your life. It took many years for me to understand what he meant by that and it wasn't until I joined the food bank team that I truly understood. This isn't just a job, it's a way of life and a family. I have been blessed beyond measure as part of this vibrant and amazing organization.

We are the food bank of the **FUTURE** and will continue to grow and evolve to meet our clients right where they are because Healthy Harvest Food Bank is a legacy in the making that will serve our community for generations to come.

~ Cindy Balderson



A Heartfelt Thank You

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our dedicated and amazing pantry leaders and volunteers for their selfless service every day but especially during this time of uncertainty in our country.

We would also like to thank each person who has reached out to offer assistance, provide non-perishable items or monetary donations during this crisis.

We could not continue our essential work without each and every one of you and we are truly grateful for the outpouring of support during this time.

Mark Kleinschmidt
President & CEO

Cynthia Balderson
Vice President & Development Director

Craig Hazzard
Director of Operations

No one is more cherished in this world than someone who lightens the burden of another. Thank you.

~ Author Unknown



In the News

Seed The Future Capital Campaign Continues

Through the generosity of **The Cabell Foundation** in Richmond, Virginia, HHFB has been awarded a challenge grant in the amount of \$150,000!

This one to one matching grant means every single dollar we raise is **DOUBLED!!** This is a phenomenal opportunity to allocate \$300,000 directly to the building fund!

If you are interested in doubling your dollar to help us raise the remaining funds for our capital project, contact Mark or Cindy at 804-250-2277.

Gleaning Season is Just Around the Corner

We will kick off the 9th year of our signature Agricultural Program mid to late June! This is a great way to get involved and give back to the local community and beyond.

Volunteers will be needed! Imagine what a few hours of picking fresh vegetables can do for those in need **locally** and across the state! More information to come!!



How We are Responding to the COVID-19 Crisis



Healthy Harvest Food Bank is deemed essential and we continue to work on the front line during this crisis to provide food to those in need. We have been asked many times how the community can help.

Our pantries have adopted a drive-thru distribution and we have established emergency pantries in every county in the event they become necessary as time goes on. We have already seen a 15-25% increase in demand and anticipate the need will continue to grow.

As demand rises due to the pandemic, the need for community support will become increasingly more important to ensure we continue to provide food to those who need it most.



We feel it is imperative at this time to clarify how we operate. While we are an independently operated partner distribution organization (PDO) of Feed More, Inc., Feeding America does not recognize us as one of the 200 food banks across the country, and we do not receive financial assistance through the network. **Our funds are raised within the 6 counties we serve, the majority from individuals just like you!**

Because our funds are raised **LOCALLY** in the Northern Neck and Upper Middle Peninsula, the need for community support is dire in this changing environment.



If you would like to help, monetary donations can be made on our website www.hhfb.org or by mail to P.O. Box 735, Warsaw, VA 22572.



July 2020 marks the beginning of our 10th year of people helping people!

"Help one another; there's no time like the present and no present like the time." ~James Durst