Treasure Coast Food Bank Response to the Coronavirus Pandemic

Packaging of Emergency Food Boxes underway
Daily meal delivery to organizations continues

Dear Friend,

Treasure Coast Food Bank is packaging emergency food boxes for people who can’t access food because of the novel Coronavirus. Last week, our staff and volunteers began packaging hundreds of food boxes with pantry staples and other healthy shelf-stable foods for people who will struggle to put food on the table in the weeks ahead. Our Food Production Kitchen continues to prepare and deliver thousands of meals every day to multiple organizations ensuring children will continue to receive a healthy meal while schools are closed.

As the largest emergency food provider to the four-county area encompassing
Indian River, St. Lucie, Martin and Okeechobee counties, we have been preparing for increased demand for food as businesses shut down, forcing many individuals to go without paychecks.

Our mission is food. While this situation is different than the emergencies we typically experience, such as hurricanes, we know the results will be the same – more people needing our help to feed themselves and their families.

Every day, Treasure Coast Food Bank packages and delivers a variety of food to our partner organizations, including proteins, whole grains and vegetables for balanced nutrition. **We are prepared to continue our regular daily operations providing meals and food boxes through our mobile distribution services and by other delivery methods as the needs arise.**

As packing continues, we are seeking additional volunteers to help as some of our regular volunteers – many of whom are seniors and more susceptible to the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) – are choosing to stay home. We have instituted a heightened process to screen volunteers to reduce the risk of spreading the virus.

Anyone needing food is encouraged to visit our **Agency Partner Locator** on our website at stophunger.org to find a food pantry near their home. This site will be updated daily.

The steps we are taking carry significant additional costs and present new and logistical challenges. **We know our community stands with us and we invite all those who can help us meet emerging needs.**

- For every $50 contribution, Treasure Coast Food Bank can provide healthy, pre-packaged food boxes to feed a four-person family for seven days.

- For every $100 contribution, Treasure Coast Food Bank can source more than 1,000 pounds of nutritious produce or the equivalent of 50 boxes of 20 pounds of fresh
produce to one of our 300 partners, meal programs or distribution sites.

I'm asking for your help with these critical efforts of supporting our neighbors, please consider making a donation today.

Thank you for your concern & generosity,

Judith Cruz
President & CEO

P.S. To keep you updated about how to get help such as food distribution changes and to learn ways you can help, please follow our COVID-19 Updates.

DONATE