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Candid

KEEP THE FOOD FLOWING



WELCOME TO
OUR THIRD EDITION



Since 1987

This newsletter is a source of information where we share the good news about the work we do; the hope, nourishment and dignity it offers to our neighbors who are impacted; and the challenges we face. Submitted periodically to our faithful and loyal supporters and the entire community. We will also be posting it on the website and social media.

Barbara Reis, Communications



The President's letter



As the holiday season approaches, many of us look forward to gathering with family and friends. But for too many of our neighbors, this season brings stress rather than joy.

Food insecurity remains a serious issue in Indian River County, affecting adults, children, seniors, and families throughout our community. Mothers worry about feeding their children, while seniors are forced to skip meals.

In 2027, we will celebrate 40 years of helping alleviate hunger. What began as a small organization has grown into a vital

resource for our neighbors, thanks to the generosity of our donors and volunteers.

The need continues to grow. In 2026, we are averaging more than 85 new household registrations each month and providing over 50% more food than in 2025.

With your continued support, we can meet the growing need.

Together, we are "Neighbors Helping Neighbors."

Scott Turner, President

Volunteers In the Spotlight

After many years of hard work and service at the Food Pantry, our much loved volunteer Treasurer Ann Kellum has stepped down from our Board Of Directors. There are no words of gratitude that are enough to express our thanks for her dedication and diligence to the service of those in need.

Leslie Hunt has agreed to become our new Treasurer. Here is a brief bio and her thoughts on joining us. We welcome her and look forward to working with her.

Leslie Hunt, New Treasurer:

I have been involved at The Pantry since November 2025. It all began when I came to donate food and when I encountered so many friendly faces, I thought that I'd like to volunteer there.

Tom Mackie asked me one day about my career and discovered that I am a University of Kentucky Accounting Graduate and a CPA. When he learned about my financial background and career

as controller of the Distribution segment of B/E Aerospace, he asked if I would be interested in the Treasurer position, needed because of the growth of The Pantry.

I enjoy taking on new tasks and creating processes, so this seemed like a good fit for me. I like to help people, and The Pantry offers that opportunity, and in a very positive environment. What I like about volunteering at the Pantry:

- it is so organized
- the patrons are grateful for the food
- the volunteers work together to get the food distributed
- it is just a fun place to be

Also in my life, on the side, is my beautiful beagle, Molly, who keeps me very active.

PANTRY NEWS

As we wind down from summer and enter the months of fall, here are some updates from The Pantry.

A warm welcome to Danny Davis and Kathy Nelson who join our Board along Leslie Hunt our new Treasurer. We look forward to their contributions in the future.

Danny Davis brings considerable IT skills – He will focus on client management - website and social media platform buildouts. Kathy Nelson is heading our volunteer training program. She will also be developing guidance for common operating protocols.

A primary push is being made at The Pantry to offer foods that have the highest possible nutritional values. We want our bags of food to contain healthier foods, sending them home, along with HOPE and SUPPORT, with each of our clients.

Our Walk In Fridge and Freezer are now fully operational.

In addition to the meat and other frozen items, we can now store and distribute FRESH EGGS (a new and recent addition) along with FRUITS and VEGETABLES on a regular basis.

We are also happy to announce that our Nutritional Outreach Program is continuing.

Currently we supply nutritional support to the following smaller food pantries and meal preparation organizations:

St. John of the Cross
The Salvation Army
Fellsmere Fridge
St. Francis Manor
Dodgertown Pantry

(OVER)



Tales From Our Window

While volunteering at the Food Pantry recently, I witnessed a moment that reminded me why this work matters so deeply. A client came in for groceries and quietly asked if we had any pet food. Unfortunately, that day, we didn't. She explained that she was worried about her dog going hungry, and that getting to the separate pet food distribution site was difficult for her.

As we spoke, another client who was nearby overheard the conversation. Without hesitation, she went out to her car, returned with an extra bag of pet food, and handed it to the

woman who needed it. They embraced, both in tears—and my eyes welled up also.

It was one of those *grace-filled moments* when need, generosity, and timing aligned perfectly. No program or policy could have planned it, a moment filled with grace that unfolded exactly as it should have.

Moments like this—simple, human, and quietly powerful—are the reason I volunteer.



Pantry Recipes

Food Pantry Quick and Easy Shepherd's Pie

Ingredients:

- 1 lb. Ground Beef
- 1 Package of Hamburger Helper
- 1 Package Instant Mashed Potatoes
- 1/2 Can Mixed Vegetables
- 1 Medium Onion

Chop onion and sauté in 1 tablespoon of cooking oil. Add ground beef and brown. Following package directions and add Hamburger Helper. Add well drained Mixed Vegetables. Place mixture in 9x9 baking dish. Cover with mashed potatoes. Bake at 300 degrees for about 30 minutes until it begins to brown.

Optional: Add a small amount of butter to the mashed potatoes. Sprinkle top with grated cheese.

Help Wanted

Come join our volunteer team! Stop in to get familiar with our operation. When you see the energy and passion and wish to commit, we will connect you with a scheduler to get you started.

Hours at The Pantry are M, W F: 9:00am to 12:30pm; T, Th: 2:00pm to 5:00pm

2206 16th Ave, Vero Beach, FL 32960 | Phone 772-770-2068



A huge thank you to our DONORS whose generous support is helping prepare us for the challenges we will be facing in 2027.

A big shout out to all our Volunteers, without their efforts and hard work our mission to Stave Off Hunger and Starvation would not be possible.

If you would like to make your donation now you can send your check to:

Food Pantry of Indian River Co.
P.O. Box 1587
Vero Beach, FL. 32961

EIN# 13-4301530 For Donations



Make a contribution online

To donate by credit card visit our website www.foodpantryirc.org or scan the QR Code to be taken directly to our Donation section



To donate securities or other assets:

Contact Tom Mackie, Chairman at foodpantryirc@icloud.com

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No goods or services were provided in consideration in whole or in part for this contribution.

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