

NCEF provides new truck to help feed families

Naples, Fla. (Sept 3, 2014) – The Harry Chapin Food Bank has received a \$100,000 grant from the Naples Children & Education Foundation (NCEF), founders of the Naples Winter Wine Festival, for a new refrigerated truck to further boost food distribution to children and families in need in Collier County.

The food bank has collaborated with NCEF since 2010 to provide children with fresh, nutritious food through the Lunchboxes of Love Initiative, which includes mobile pantry distributions in high-need Collier County communities. In fiscal year 2013-2014, the Harry Chapin Food Bank provided 2.9 million pounds of food—the equivalent of 2.4 million meals and a 20.8% increase over the previous fiscal year.

“It is an alarming fact to most that more than half of the children in Collier County are on free and reduced lunch,” Jim Dixon, NCEF Grant Committee Chairman, said. “In order to help, the Naples Children & Education Foundation’s Children’s Hunger Initiative has distributed 2.9 million meals to hungry children over the last four years. This new refrigerated truck will allow us to expand our Initiative by adding 640,000 more meals to our distributions to over 1,300 children each week.

“Our partnership with Harry Chapin Food Bank reflects NCEF’s unique collaborative approach to transforming and helping our community one issue at a time,” Dixon said.

The Harry Chapin Food Bank operates a distribution warehouse in Naples to increase service to more than 20 partner agencies that run emergency food pantries and other feeding programs. The new truck will allow the food bank to deliver more food directly to these agencies.

“This vehicle will enable us to serve more Collier families, and do so more efficiently,” said food bank President and CEO Al Brislain. “The Naples Children and Education Foundation’s generous gift will feed families for many years to come.”

The Harry Chapin Food Bank solicits, collects and stores quality food for distribution to families in need through a network of 150 nonprofit agencies in Lee, Collier, Hendry, Charlotte and Glades counties that provide food to more than 30,000 people monthly. The food bank distributes more than 1 million pounds of food every month.

For each \$1 donated, the food bank can distribute \$6 worth of food and grocery items. Last fiscal year, the Harry Chapin Food Bank distributed more than 18.7 million pounds of food and other grocery items valued at more than \$32 million. This is the equivalent of 15.5 million meals to people in need.

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