PROGRAM SUMMARY

Treasure Coast Food Bank (TCFB) was founded in 1989. It is the largest hunger-relief organization and the only Food Bank in our four-county region (Indian River, Martin, Okeechobee, and St. Lucie County).

In alignment with a comprehensive strategy established by Feeding America, TCFB coordinates more than 20 programs and initiatives in **three** priority areas: **FEED**, **LEAD**, and **STRENGTHEN**.

**FEED**

**BACKPACK PROGRAM** — Weekly we provide 1,200 child-friendly backpacks filled with nutritious food to children from low-income families for consumption at home, on the weekends, and holidays.

**KIDS CAFE** — We work with 4 local youth programs providing nutritious meals and nutrition education to children from low-income families in a safe and secure after-school environment.

**SCHOOL PANTRY PROGRAM** — Operating 10 sites and as an expansion of our BackPack Program to provide more food for all. The School Pantry partners with local schools or after school youth clubs and programs providing a variety of shelf-stable food directly to students and families in need on a weekly basis.

**MOBILE PANTRY** — Since June 2010, TCFB has been bringing nutritious food to households living in underserved areas of the community. Each mobile pantry roll out includes meats, breads, fresh fruit and vegetables, and non-perishable foods to people who do not have access to nutritious food due to financial difficulties, lack of transportation, or physical limitations. Outreach specialists also assist with connection to SNAP, medical screenings and other informational workshops at distributions.

**HEALTHY OPTIONS PROGRAM FOR THE ELDERLY (H.O.P.E.)** — Since 2012 TCFB has worked with community partners such as public housing, senior centers, and medical clinics to provide 20 pound boxes of shelf-stable food as a supplement to our senior population who are struggling to make ends meet. Helping eliminate the difficult choices some have to make between food purchases and daily necessities for living.
SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM — Created to ensure that children in low-income areas could continue to receive nutritious meals during long school vacations when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast. It provides nutritious and free meals to children 18 and younger during the summer months.

SNAP OUTREACH PROGRAM — Our SNAP Outreach team reaches out to eligible low-income people who are not currently participating in SNAP and share information about the nutrition benefits of the program to help them make an informed participation decision. SNAP helps low-income people buy the food they need for good health, especially fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

FARM 2 SCHOOL — Through a partnership with the St. Lucie County School District, TCFB stores and transports farm-fresh offerings to all St. Lucie County students in each of St. Lucie County’s 42 public schools.

USDA/TEFAP — TCFB is contracted with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to distribute commodities of the USDA Temporary Food Assistance Program.

TEEN PANTRY — Shares non-food items of special interest to local teens such as shampoo, conditioner, hair accessories, toothpaste, toothbrushes, school supplies, and even flip-flops.

HAPPY BABY DIAPER PANTRY OF S.E. FLORIDA — A program operated by Treasure Coast Food Bank, receives and shares diapers with agencies located in seven Southeast Florida Counties: Miami-Dade, Broward, Palm Beach Counties, Martin, St. Lucie, Indian River and Okeechobee counties.

PET PANTRY — Our pet pantry began in 2010 and has continually provided pet food to families through our established network of partner agencies already providing emergency food assistance to families and individuals in need. TCFB works with local retail stores and with pet food manufacturers to obtain donations of pet food and products for distribution. Pets provide comfort to families and individuals struggling financially who more than likely also need food for their pets.

LEAD

TREASURE COAST HUNGER-FREE COALITION — TCFB formed a capacity-building collaborative project in each county that works to develop and implement strategies to end hunger through policy, education, community organizing, and community development.

WHOLE CHILD CONNECTION — TCFB operates a one-stop-shop for local families to become more self-sufficient in the critical areas of health, education, food, and employment. Whole Child Connection invites adults to anonymously complete an online profile (available in both English and Spanish) that identifies their family’s specific needs and through a case-management model, connects them with local providers who enable both children and adults to access services in education, health, transportation, emergency services, housing, community activities, and more.

HUNGER ACTION MONTH (HAM) — Each September, TCFB coordinates dozens of actions that raise awareness among and directly engage citizens, businesses, government, schools, and the faith-based community about local food-insecurity issues.
STRENGTHEN

HEALTH & NUTRITION OUTREACH — Through a number of collaborative partnerships, TCFB provides direct food assistance, nutrition education, health management, and medical prescreening for chronic illnesses. We manage a Diabetes Awareness Program assisting clients with management of their condition through diet and education.

SNAP OUTREACH PROGRAM — Our SNAP Outreach team reaches out to eligible low-income people who are not currently participating in SNAP and share information about the nutrition benefits of the program to help them make an informed participation decision. SNAP helps low-income people buy the food they need for good health, especially fruits, vegetables, and whole grains.

AFFORDABLE CARE OUTREACH — Our trained and certified Healthcare Navigators help consumers, small businesses, and their employees as they look for health coverage options through the Health Insurance Marketplace, including completing eligibility and enrollment forms.

YOUR PLATE — A new approach to fighting hunger at one location, this program consists of SNAP, FL Kidcare, Medicaid, TANF, and other benefit assistance, Nutrition Education, Family Dining, Senior Programs and Child Nutrition Programs. The Your Plate goal is to impact our clients in the areas of Nutrition, Education, Wellness, and Lifestyle.

DISASTER RELIEF — TCFB plays a vital role in responding to emergencies such as floods, tornadoes, and hurricanes throughout the region through as a part of the Federal Emergency Support Function (ESF #6).