If you would have asked me this time last year what our operations would look like today, I would have given you a vastly different picture than our current reality. In just a few months, a global pandemic and its economic fallout have reached our community and completely changed the way we fulfill our mission.

Almost overnight, the Treasure Coast had seen a need for food assistance rise 200 percent over the number of people we helped last year. Most of them are people who have never needed our services before — our neighbors from all income levels who have been furloughed or permanently laid off from their jobs. They are teachers, small business owners, dental assistants, real estate agents, store clerks, bartenders and wait staff. This pandemic showed even those with steady employment are just one unexpected disaster away from needing food assistance.

When the shelter-in-place order was issued in March, we never shut down and quickly had to mobilize and ramp up our distribution and operation model where we could handle the increased volume and allow for social distancing. Within three months, we distributed 17 million pounds of food - nearly 700 tractor trailer truckloads. We continued ordering as much food as possible to replenish our warehouse, expanded drive-through mobile pantry service, launched new programs like "Meal Connect" home delivery to senior and low-income families, and opened a curbside pick-up service to reduce person-to-person contact while reassuring our community that food access would be easily available to anyone impacted by the pandemic. We supported our partner agencies with healthy nutritious food, provided best practices for contactless distributions, and held many a gloved hand as pantries made tough decisions to close their doors - some temporarily and, unfortunately, some permanently.

As we settle into this “new normal,” I am extremely proud of Treasure Coast Food Bank continuing to meet our community’s rapidly increasing need for sustenance during this difficult time. With support from our donors and network partners, we have forged new ways to continue our commitment. We offer life-changing programs, internships, and services, like Supply Chain and Culinary Training, giving students the skill set to obtain permanent employment. Innovative programs like “Mobile Fresh On the Move” brings residents in food desert areas access to locally grown produce and other healthy foods at low cost affordable prices. The program is staffed by Treasure Coast Food Bank Professional Chefs and nutritionists, who demonstrate how to make tasty meals and provide nutrition education, including diabetes-friendly recipes and other services to support our neighbors. Our approach is to develop partnerships that strengthen pathways to economic mobility and financial health. Our goal is to increase financial wellbeing and long-term food security.

Our community has been amazingly supportive, and I am deeply grateful. Full recovery will be measured in years, not months, and with your support we are here for the community now and for the long term.

Thank you,

Judith Cruz | President & CEO

COMMUNITY IMPACT

1 IN 8 INDIVIDUALS ON THE TREASURE COAST ARE STRUGGLING WITH THE REALITY OF HUNGER AND FOOD INSECURITY.

IN FISCAL YEAR 2019/2020, TREASURE COAST FOOD BANK PROVIDED 41 MILLION MEALS TO FAMILIES AND SENIORS ON THE TREASURE COAST.
MISSION
To alleviate hunger by obtaining and distributing food and other essentials in Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie, and Okeechobee Counties.

VISION
Provide nutritious food to improve the quality of health and wellness of those who are struggling with food insecurity on the Treasure Coast.

LEGACY
Together, we have the power and the will to overcome challenges and ensure that every man, woman and child is fed.
Following the passing of her father, Natasha was left with a restaurant she loved but was not prepared to take on. Throughout her childhood she was inspired by her father’s passion for cooking and always wanted to learn more about the culinary arts. After having her hours cut at her flight attendant job, now seemed like the perfect time to dive in and start this new journey as a culinary student. Natasha, who discovered the academy through her time at the Sunshine Kitchen, hit the ground running, learning knife skills, intricate recipes, and food safety techniques that she plans to integrate into her family’s business. Continuing her father’s legacy is something Natasha is passionate about. She aims to put the same love into her food that her father did. By fostering a hands-on and interactive learning environment, the Culinary Training Academy is creating the future leaders of the food service industry.

“I LOVE SERVING PEOPLE AND I’M EXCITED TO BE ABLE TO PUT A SMILE ON SOMEONE’S FACE THROUGH MY COOKING.”

Seven years ago, Marbey became a single mother and a widow, leaving her to pick up the pieces and try to find a job for the first time in ten years. Without having the means to afford childcare for her children, it was incredibly difficult for her to find a job that could meet her needs as an employee and as a mother. Even after securing a job at a local convenience store near her children’s school, she has found herself struggling to secure food. With finances dwindling, Marbey made the decision to turn to a neighbor for help. That is when she learned about Treasure Coast Food Bank and the many services and programs we have to offer.

“IT’S NOT JUST FOOD, IT’S HOPE.”
## COVID CRISIS: A COMMUNITY IN NEED

Since Covid-19 struck the Treasure Coast in March of this year, the need for food in our 4-county service area has risen 200%. To meet the growing demand, Treasure Coast Food Bank distributed 20 million meals to children, families and seniors struggling with hunger in our community. Accomplishing this would have been incredibly difficult without your generous and devoted support. The pandemic forced us to create new ways to rise to the needs of our community.

We adapted our mobile food distributions to allow us to serve up to 1,000 families at each event. Providing a contact free way for us to give food to our hungry neighbors has been critical to ensure the safety of our staff members, our volunteers, and our clients. To help the most vulnerable, we began home deliveries to seniors and immune compromised individuals who were at home on quarantine.

In addition, we added curbside pick-up at our Distribution Center in Fort Pierce, distributed emergency food to our 300 regular partner agencies, and brought on an additional 80 emergency partner agencies to help circulate healthy, nutritious food throughout St. Lucie, Martin, Indian River, and Okeechobee counties through their soup kitchens, homeless shelters, food pantries, and after school programs.

Your support allowed us to provide emergency meals to thousands of people who may have lost their jobs, had children who were not being fed while school was shut down, or seniors who needed to be able to receive food while quarantined. Thanks to you and Treasure Coast Food Bank’s powerful hunger relief network we have been able to not only bring food, but also deliver hope to our community.
YOUR IMPACT 2019

Volunteer Impact:
8,886 volunteers completed ~ 36,731 hours

Summer Meals:
35 feeding locations ~ 203,254 meals

Mobile Food Drops
15 times per week ~ 815 mobile pantries ~ 7,952,337 meals

Kids Backpacks
14,020 weekend food packs ~ 45,106 meals

Kids Cafe:
5 after school locations ~ 100,649 meals

Benefits Connection:
45,216 SNAP applications processed
$78,953,647 in benefits provided

Health and Hunger

Treasure Coast Food Bank is utilizing multiple pathways to help our neighbors in need identify and manage diet-related chronic diseases through our network of feeding partners.

Nearly 116 feeding partners make up the health pantry network, which provides healthier foods and nutrition education.

Fresh produce distributed 4,933,673 meals
WHERE OUR FOOD AND PRODUCT COMES FROM

- RETAIL/WHOLESALE .................. 3.60%
- USDA .................................. 68.43%
- FARMERS .............................. 3.74%
- MANUFACTURERS ...................... 10.01%
- PURCHASE ............................. 6.54%
- PREPARED FOOD ....................... 3.21%
- FOOD DRIVE ........................... 3.76%
- OTHER .................................. 0.72%

WHERE OUR FOOD AND PRODUCT GOES

- EMERGENCY PANTRIES .................. 46%
- RESIDENTIAL/REHAB CENTERS ....... .31%
- MULTI-SERVICE PROVIDERS ............ .62%
- DAY CARE/ YOUTH PROGRAMS ......... 5.44%
- SOUP KITCHENS ......................... 2.54%
- SENIORS PROGRAMS .................... 3.88%
- EMERGENCY SHELTERS ................ .15%
- DIRECT CLIENT DISTRIBUTIONS ....... 41.07%
WITH YOUR HELP, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE FOOD TO OUR VULNERABLE NEIGHBORS IN A TIME WHEN SO MUCH HAS BEEN UNCERTAIN. WHETHER PROVIDING NUTRITIOUS MEALS FOR CHILDREN, DELIVERING BOXES OF FOOD TO SENIORS, OR DISTRIBUTING FRESH PRODUCE, MEATS, AND VEGETABLES AT OUR MOBILE FOOD PANTRIES, YOU CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE THROUGH YOUR SUPPORT. YOUR TIME, FOOD, AND FUNDS HAVE DIRECTLY IMPACTED THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO SUFFER FROM FOOD INSECURITY. THANK YOU FOR YOUR INVESTMENT IN OUR MISSION TO FEED THE TREASURE COAST.
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT & CEO / JUDITH CRUZ

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TREASURER / MITCH HALL

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MARK SATTERLEE

MAJOR BRIAN HESTER

DAVID JACKSON

PEGGY PETIT

Martin County Office
3816 SE Dixie Hwy
Stuart, FL 34997
772.489.3034

Food Production Kitchen
3051 Industrial 25th Street
Fort Pierce, FL 34946
772.489.3034

Health & Wellness Center
1203 Orange Avenue
Fort Pierce, FL 34950
772.489.3034

Mission: Our mission is to alleviate hunger by obtaining and distributing food and other essentials in Indian River, Martin, St. Lucie, and Okeechobee Counties.

stophunger.org Treasure Coast Food Bank is a 501(c)(3) not for profit organization.
FOOD IS LOVE