

Food Pantry Project

Living Healthy in Florida was a recipient of the Walmart Rural Food Security Initiative Grant, which helped other organizations and food banks in Florida to distribute food to those living in food deserts and areas with a shortage of food supplies. As part of their participation, we asked the organizations to fill out a participant survey. The following are their success stories.

FAITH-HOPE-LOVE-CHARITY, INC.

Palm Beach County, FL

Equipment/resources acquired: Commercial refrigerator and freezer, racks, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), rolling refrigerated coolers and other items for posting menu and nutritional information

The equipment assisted in delivery of fresh food and produce to the outlying rural areas of Belle Glade, South Bay and Pahokee among others in the western end of Palm Beach County. The aluminum racks assisted with storage in the pantry and being able to label items appropriately for easier pick up by families. The coolers were utilized to pack individual food for families and created an easier transfer of the food. The refrigerator and freezer in the facility assisted in maintaining supplies that needed refrigeration and assisted in storing larger quantities of food for distribution in the freezer. The PPE served the outreach workers with the ability to move with more ease knowing they were protected.

“We are more efficient with our distribution of food items and have reached more families and individuals.”

...Without that grant, a significant number of people would not have been able to utilize our services.



HEARTLAND FOOD RESERVOIR, INC.

Highlands County, FL

Equipment/resources acquired: Walk-in cooler, upright commercial freezer

In mid-2020 and amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Heartland Food Reservoir realized that their facility was inadequate in regard to walk-in cooler and freezer space. This shortage caused problems because demands were growing and the ability to meet those demands was compromised due to lack of cooler and freezer space. After being notified they would be a recipient of a grant from Living Healthy in Florida in partnership with the Walmart Foundation and the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, the decision to purchase a walk-in cooler and an upright freezer was easy. Without the grant, Heartland believes a significant number of people would not have been able to utilize their services. The new equipment has allowed them to take large steps forward in their goal of feeding the needy in Highlands County.

“We are extremely grateful to Living Healthy in Florida, Walmart Foundation, and the Florida Department of Agriculture for their generous contribution to help us continue our mission to Let No One Go Hungry.”



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.



Being able to worry less about infrastructure and focus more on our services and programs is a true gift to our organization...

FOOD FOR THOUGHT OUTREACH

Walton County, FL

Equipment/resources acquired: Walking fork lift, stainless steel tables, glass door refrigerator, produce

Food For Thought was able to use the produce items donated for holiday services to give families more than twice the amount of fresh produce normally provided. It was a huge help and the families were thrilled. Fresh produce is the number one requested item from the families at Food For Thought. The Walmart Rural Food Security Initiative Grant was integral in helping make this happen for local families facing food insecurity and hunger, especially during a critical and crucial time like the holidays where no family should have to go without.

The new walking forklift has allowed the team to work faster and more efficiently with less stress. It has allowed more focus on the well-being of the staff by alleviating some of the physical burden of moving and storing food items. The added refrigeration helps store produce and other items to maintain peak freshness and quality. The stainless steel tables have ensured the ability to provide a cleaner, safer workplace and surface for all food items. They have increased available workspace and the ability to social distance and spread out the work to a variety of spaces throughout the pantry, a value to both the team and the work of Food For Thought.

"The Walmart Rural Food Security Initiative Grant has helped Food For Thought in countless ways. We have been able to expand our ability to serve those most in need in our community. Being able to worry less about infrastructure and focus more on our services and programs is a true gift to our organization. Our staff has had to work tremendously hard - mentally and physically - through the pandemic due to rising needs and fewer volunteers. Ensuring their safety and well-being with this added equipment has been a great relief and bonus as well. We appreciate all that this grant has allowed us to do and the change we have been able to therefore bring to our communities."

PUTNAM COUNTY BREAD OF LIFE, INC.

Putnam County, FL

Equipment/resources acquired: Refrigerators and freezers

Putnam County Bread of Life received both refrigerators and freezers to assist with proper storage of food items received at the Bread of Life. They now have enough storage for canned goods, insulated bags for transporting items safely and drawstring backpacks for the homeless population to have necessary food items. They have been able to provide approximately 200-300 meals weekly to the homeless, food insecure and displaced families with a depleted food supply. Bread of Life has been able to prep and safely store food (in advance) and meet the increasing need for food. They provide nutritious meals, fruit and snacks 5 days a week with an extra meal on Friday to sustain through the weekend. A better shelving system allows for items to be both organized and easily accessible for the volunteers to handle. The Walmart grant has helped make this all possible.

"We are so encouraged by being a beneficiary of such a wonderful program. WE cannot thank Catherine Hart for her interest, assistance, and compassion for the needs at the Bread of Life. We are forever grateful to the Walmart Rural Food Security Initiative Grant. YOU have truly made a difference in our community and to our organization."

