

GuideStar Platinum  
Seal of Transparency  
2025  
Candid

# KEEP THE FOOD FLOWING



WELCOME TO THE



## FIRST EDITION OF KEEP THE FOOD FLOWING

A source of information sharing the good news of the work we do, the hope, nourishment and dignity it offers, our neighbors who are impacted, and the challenges we face. Submitted periodically to our faithful and loyal supporters and the entire community.

We will be posting it on our Website and Social Media for all to see.

**Barbara Reis, Communications**



### *The President's letter*



Eradicating poverty is a challenge we cannot solve— but together, we can make a life-changing difference. Right here in Indian River County, 11% of our neighbors live below the poverty line, struggling with hunger every day. Half of those we serve are children and seniors — the most vulnerable among us. Your support provides more than food; it delivers hope, health, and dignity. Every dollar you give and every hour you volunteer directly nourishes those in need and helps break the cycle of food insecurity by staving off hunger and starvation. Join us in building a stronger, hunger-free community. Together, we can ensure no one is left behind.

**Scott Turner, President**



### DAVE ZANITIS

Dave relocated to Vero Beach in 2014 while still working in the medical device and pharmaceutical industry. His roles ranged from working in hospitals and the business development of medical devices including marketing, sales and distribution of those products to healthcare providers. He has been engaged in several volunteer and leadership roles at Grand Harbor Golf & Beach Club and also participates in fundraising events in support of the Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital.

He has volunteered for the past five years and now serves as a Board Member of the Food Pantry of Indian River County. In this role he supports inventory management activities at the Pantry and the weekly procurement of food purchases from the Treasure Coast Food Bank. Dave also works with the Board in the development and promotion of a variety of fund-raising campaigns and food drives that support the ongoing distribution of food to residents in need here in Indian River County.

## The Board of Directors extends a warm welcome to Jim Harris as he comes aboard.

Jim has an extensive legal background in commercial real estate development working with major corporations internationally. His additional expertise in networking, organizational and strategic planning, and legal guidance in the various industries created added value to his work life. He and his wife, Josie, settled in Grand Harbor and quickly involved themselves in local non-profit work and have already made an impact in the community. His business acumen, organizational skills and creativity are a benefit to all, and his commitment will help raise awareness and funds for the Food Pantry of IRC create a stronger organization. Jim major concentration will be Major Donor Acquisition and Retention. Not only will he give his time to Fund Raising activities he along with Josie donate their time working at the Food Pantry.

## PANTRY NEWS

In January, responding to the over 33% increase in food prices, the Board of Directors voted to increase monthly eligibility from once per month to twice. This action has resulted in a 35% increase in food distribution. Shortly after implementation we received news that The US Department of Agriculture was cutting one half a billion dollars (\$500,000,000) in assistance to Food Pantry's nationally. For us this means 25% less food that we received for free. We made an emergency appeal to the community and were able to, through the generosity of those who responded, maintain all existing programs.

This year we received a **\$10,000 increase in funding from Head, Heart, and Hands**, the Philanthropic Outreach of the Indian River Club to \$15,000. **Grand Harbor Community Outreach provided an addition \$8,000.00 in funding** for the Fresh Milk Program through their Strategic Fund. This was on top of their initial contribution of \$23,000, ensuring that the program is fully Funded.

**John's Island Community Service League awarded us a \$7500.00 grant** to cover our first comprehensive audit. The Audit demonstrated our financial strength and reported that 91.7 cents of every donated dollar goes to program expenses.

We are happy to announce this year were awarded a Platinum Status by GuideStar Candid.

**Our thanks to all who have helped us meet the challenges of 2025. We look forward to your continued support in 2026.**

## No Sugar 3 Bean Salad



**Prep Time:** 15 Minutes  
**Additional Time:** 2 Hrs.  
**Total Time:** 2hrs 15 mins.  
**Servings:** 8  
**Nutritional Value Per Serving:**  
170 Calories. 8g Fat. 21 Carbs. 5g Protein.

- 1 (15 OZ Ea) Can Of Chick Peas (Garbanzo), Kidney Beans, Green Beans, Rinsed and drained
- 4 Green Onions Chopped, 1 stalk of celery sliced
- Dressing: ½ Cup Cider Vinegar, ¼ Cup Light Olive Oil, 1 Tbs Honey, ¼ Tsp Garlic Powder, ¼ Black Pepper, ¼ Tsp Onion (Optional)

*Pantry Recipes*



## Tales From Our Window

Late this morning I served a man at the window of the food pantry who brought tears to my face after he walked away. The first time that's ever happened to me while working there. I know for sure what the food pantry does here in Vero Beach is extra special.

The gentleman was an African American with an artificial leg. He pushed a wheelchair and told me it's like his cane.  
He arrived by bus. Some of you may know him.

As we talked I learned he lives with and takes care of his elderly parents. He showed me his hands and fingers which were bent because of a stroke. I asked how he would get his food, milk, bread and meats home. He replied by the grace of God, my wheelchair and the bus. I should not worry. I took the food out of the normal packed box and provided two canvas bags. We traded cans for items not as heavy. He asked for some apple juice or whatever we have as he was thirsty. Throughout the 5 or so minutes we interacted he must have thanked me 10-15 times and kept saying "bless you". He had on a baseball cap with the word Jesus across the top. He pointed to it and told me he helps me...

What an incredible human being. Positive, gracious and kind. Not a negative word from his mouth, just appreciative and genuinely thankful. No complaining or blaming others. As he walked away pushing his wheelchair with the two bags of food in the seat I knew we did something good today.

## Help Wanted

If interested in volunteering, you are welcome to stop in during normal operating hours to get familiar with our operation.  
At that time, you will be put in contact with a scheduling contact.

Hours at The Pantry are M,W & F: 9:00am to 1:00pm; T,Th: 2:00pm to 5:00pm

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

IT/Website Support is sorely needed If you have the expertise and a few hours a week to donate, please Contact Tom @ 772-643-1975



**We would like to express our thanks to all those who helped put together our first edition of KEEP THE FOOD FLOWING.**

A very big Shout Out to Barbara Reis for her editorial skills and Carter Rice for his graphic contributions along with Miranda Thomason and Daniel Seldes of Ironside Press for helping us pull it all together.

Our unwavering thanks to all our Volunteers, without their efforts and hard work this mission to Stave off Hunger and Starvation would not be possible.

Last but not least to OUR DONORS whose generous support in 2025 will provide enough food for 250,000 meals for home preparation. In 2026 we anticipate the number to be more than over 300,000 meals for home preparation. Our deep gratitude along with that of those we have the honor to serve. Many of them extend their Blessings for the help they receive. We are grateful to receive them and pass them along to you.

You will be hearing from us in October/November when we Kick off our Annual Fund Drive. As we have noted above this year will be filled with challenges, but we know that with your help we will overcome them. For those of you who can increase your Donation please consider doing so.

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

Food Pantry of Indian of Indian River Co.  
2206 16th Street  
Vero Beach, FL 32960

EIN# 13-4301530 For Donations

Gratefully,  
**Mark Rice, Director of Development**



**Make a contribution online**

To donate by credit card visit our website [www.foodpantryirc.org](http://www.foodpantryirc.org) or scan the QR Code to be taken directly to our Donation section

**(772) 770-2068 | 2206 16th Ave Vero Beach, FL 32960 | [foodpantryirc.org](http://foodpantryirc.org)**

The IRC Food Pantry is a 501(c)(3) Charity your donation is fully tax deductible to the extent of law.

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

A copy of our official registration number CH79220 and financial information may be obtained from the Florida Division of Consumer Services by calling 1-800-435-7352 or [FDACS.gov](http://FDACS.gov). Registration does not imply endorsement, approval or recommendation by the state. EIN 13-4301530