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2025
Candid

KEEP THE FOOD FLOWING



 WELCOME TO 
OUR SECOND EDITION

This newsletter is a source of information where we share the good news about the work we do; the hope, nourishment and dignity it offers to our neighbors who are impacted; and the challenges we face. Submitted periodically to our faithful and loyal supporters and the entire community. We will also be posting it on the Website and social media.

Barbara Reis, Communications



The President's letter



As we begin a New Year, I wish to take a moment to address the pressing issues that continue to impact our community. The ongoing food crisis which has been exacerbated by both the withdrawal of Government Support and relentless food inflation has led to unprecedented demand for our services. Many families are struggling to make ends meet, and our role in the community as a pillar of hope and support has never been more essential to them. Thanks to the unwavering dedication of our Volunteers

and the generosity of the Community, our Food Pantry remains a beacon of assistance for those in need.

Together, let us continue to work towards a future where no family must worry about their next meal. Thank you for standing with us as we face the challenges in 2026.

Scott Turner, President

Volunteers In the Spotlight

LINDA HOFFMAN

Vero Beach has been a part of our lives since the 70's, and my husband and I settled here permanently when we retired in 2011. Much of my working career was with nonprofits and I saw how valuable they were and how very important volunteers were to their success.

Knowing that helping people who are helping people is a good way to go I decided to get involved and have now been here almost 14 years!

The experience has been rewarding in so many ways and sharing

the passion and friendship of the other amazing volunteers is a gift. We serve so many different people with such different circumstances and see every day how grateful our clients are. We serve people who are homeless, some in halfway homes, and families who have found themselves in difficult situations. We serve people who come straight from their hard day of work yet need that extra boost we can provide to make it through the month. It is truly inspiring each and every day that I am here.

Vero Beach is an amazingly generous community, and the food drives they host, the food they donate and we distribute, and the financial support they supply makes what we do possible.

PANTRY NEWS

Talking Turkey November 2025—

655 turkeys for our clients of The Pantry

80 turkeys for the Salvation Army

20 turkeys for Our Fathers Table in Gifford

...for a Grand Total of 755 (averaging 12 lbs. each) **Turkeys!!**

Additionally, food given to each family included a box of mashed potatoes, stuffing, macaroni and cheese, along with a can of carrots, applesauce, two cans of green beans and corn.

Kudos to this intrepid group of volunteers who packed 700 bags in 4 hours: Kathie McCaffrey, Meg Heim, Kevin Butler, Josie Harris, Jim Harris, Renee Barriere, Scott Turner, Tom Mackie

Tom McGinnis, Danny Davis, Jonathan Blome and Mitch Seldin joined our dedicated staff of volunteers to distribute the turkeys and sides.

A shout out to our Fearless Leader Scott Turner who was the grand organizer, *and a round of applause for all you donors whose generosity made it happen.*

Lentil Soup

Ingredients:

- 1 Cup Lentils
- 1 small onion
- 2 Tablespoons of Tomato Paste
- 32 oz of Water or Broth (chicken, beef or Veggie)
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Optional items: 1 clove of garlic, minced and added with the onion.
- 1 teaspoon of cumin added with the broth.

Sautee onions in a little olive oil for a few minutes to brown. Add other ingredients in a large saucepan and cook over medium heat for approximately 45 minutes until lentils are soft and soup has thickened. If the soup gets too thick, just add more water.

You can add shredded chicken or cut up hotdogs to the soup in the last few minutes of cooking.



Pantry Recipes



Tales From Our Window

One warm day, I was helping at the window where we distribute bags of food to people standing in line. I heard a commotion outside and people yelling. When it escalated and more people became involved, I went outside to investigate. Apparently, a man had pulled up in an Escalade SUV and got in the line. Folks continued shouting, questioning what he was doing there.

I recalled the mission of the Food Pantry: *No one goes hungry*. So, I told the crowd that we are a no-judgement zone and to please stop attacking the person.

The man looked at me with tears in his eyes and whispered: "This is all we have left. My wife is dying. I took so much time off from work that I lost my job. I couldn't make the rent, we lost our place to live, so now our car is our home."

There are so many paths to hunger, often triggered by job loss, family tragedy, mental health struggles or overwhelming rent increases. Our Pantry addresses hopelessness by providing respect, dignity, and of course, bags of food. What we get in return is satisfaction, purpose, and meaning in our own lives.

Awareness

Last Fall, we embarked on an Awareness Campaign, designed to introduce the Food Pantry to a broader audience in Indian River County. The program ran from mid-November until the end of December.

The campaign consists of 15 and 30 second Ads which were broadcast via Google Ads. They were viewed on streaming outlets such as You Tube, You Tube TV, ESPN, Fox News, Fox News App, Pluto TV, HBO, Max, and CNN. During the run period November 15 through Dec 31, they were viewed 86,000 times.

In addition to the Ads, a 4-minute Promo was produced to be used in presentations and speaking engagements. It contains a compilation of the Ads plus additional information highlighting the involvement in the community.

This year we will broadcast the program from September 1 until Dec 31.

You can view the Ads and Promo on our Website: foodpantryirc.org in the News Section.

Help Wanted

Come join our volunteer team! Stop in to get familiar with our operation. When you see the energy and passion and wish to commit, we will connect you with a scheduler to get you started.

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



A huge thank you to our DONORS whose generous support is helping prepare us for the challenges we will be facing in 2026.

A big shout out to all our Volunteers, without their efforts and hard work our mission to Stave Off Hunger and Starvation would not be possible.

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

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

EIN# 13-4301530 For Donations



Make a contribution online

To donate by credit card visit our website www.foodpantryirc.org or scan the QR Code to be taken directly to our Donation section

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(772) 770-2068 | 2206 16th Ave Vero Beach, FL 32960 | foodpantryirc.org

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

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