You already are an AMAZING supporter of the Bread of the Mighty Food Bank! Whether as a volunteer, donor or both, you have provided hope and encouragement to families facing hunger. We now invite you to participate in The Amazing Give! This will be our 6th year participating and we ask for your support in this very special, easy and simple fundraiser! Imagine… for every $1 donated, you can provide 8 meals to hungry adults and children right here in the counties where we live and work. Hunger is the most basic of human needs and affects every part of life – from education to employment, from mental health to mobility. Simply click on this AMAZING link below! Thank you for your continued support and helping us reach our goal!

https://www.thephilanthropyhub.org/organizations/bread-of-the-mighty-food-bank

See you on the 21st with our live updates on our Facebook page!
https://www.facebook.com/breadofthemighty

WHAT EXACTLY IS FOOD INSECURITY?

According to Feeding America, a nationwide network of more than 200 food banks, food insecurity is defined as a lack of consistent access to enough food for every person in a household to live an active, healthy life. This can be a temporary situation for a household or can last a long time. According to the USDA, more than 38 million people, including 12 million children experience food insecurity in the United States. There are many reasons for the cause of food insecurity and some are complex. Not being able to meet the cost of basic needs may result in food insecurity. Poverty, unemployment, low income, lack of affordable housing, one car accident or losing a job may be contributing factors.

The effects of food insecurity are just as varied and complex as the cause. It really depends on an individual’s circumstances. However, most common are serious health complications, especially when people facing hunger are forced to choose between spending money on food and medicine or medical care, or choosing between paying for food and electricity.

How can we end food insecurity? Again, another complex answer. One fact is for certain. It will take the entire community, volunteers, financial resources and communication with our elected officials. While the work continues and with your help, Bread of the Mighty Food Bank will continue to move forward with our mission to provide hope and encourage to families facing hunger in the communities we serve.

“According to the USDA, more than 38 million people, including 12 million children experience food insecurity in the United States.”
Emma’s Grace

A young mother, Emma, and her two children relocated to Hawthorne, FL, having escaped a domestic violence situation in South Florida. Emma left behind a job she liked and all her family to move to a safe location. Emma sought out food assistance at a Hawthorn partner agency, one of more than 170 partner agencies affiliated with Bread of the Mighty Food Bank. At the pantry, Emma had her choice of nutritionally balanced foods, fresh produce and canned goods provided by Bread of the Mighty. The onsite pastor, also a medical nurse, counseled Emma and gave her information on local job possibilities. Emma was assisted in filing for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and Medicaid for food stamp and medical assistance. Emma was referred to other local and accessible services since transportation is challenging or nonexistent in rural areas.

Through the food pantry’s connections with the elementary school, Emma was able to get a job as a Chapter One aide in a classroom. Clothing was provided to her and the children through a referral to the Methodist Church Thrift Shop. We know that people utilizing our food pantries, need more than just food when in crisis. Our partner agencies act as the conduit between the individual and other community services. Emma is now independent and utilizes the food pantry occasionally for fresh produce. Emma reports wanting to save the food pantry for "those who need it".
DID YOU KNOW...
WE OFFER PROGRAMS
TO THE COMMUNITY???

SCHOOL PANTRY PROGRAM
Consists of 20 schools, 4 high schools, 1 middle school, 1 learning center and 14 elementary schools. And still growing! We provide more than just food. Other items that that we have supplied are clothes, personal hygiene items, toys and even potting soil for the learning gardens.

FOOD FOR SENIORS
Since January 1st of this year we have given out 6,720 boxes of USDA senior food. These go to 6 counties -- Alachua, Dixie, Flagler, Lafayette, Marion and Union counties. Each month we host a packing party at Bread of the Mighty with 40-50 volunteers who help us assemble over half of the boxes. We also have been able to provide other items such as animal food, sani wipes, potting soil and a few other add-ons.

OTHER PROGRAMS INCLUDE:
MOBILE PANTRIES AND GAINESVILLE HARVEST

FOOD DRIVES NEEDED!

Very soon food pantries will be taking the place of schools as a resource for food among thousands of children in our communities. Families are faced with a food crisis during summer months, as children are home longer hours without additional nutritional resources available to them. You can make a difference by organizing a food drive at your workplace, organization, group, etc. We will help you make it easy and fun!

For a little twist, plan a theme for your drive such as:
Homemade Italian - collect pasta, spaghetti sauce, cheese
Be Sweet – collect baking goods
Garden – canned vegetable collection

What about celebrating a national food day?
April 26 – National Pretzel Day
April 30 – National Raisin Day
May 11 – National Eat What You Want Day (bring in your favorite snack)
May 13 – National Fruit Cocktail Day

For a list of other needed food items, please visit our website at www.breadofthemighty.org
For more information about planning your food drive, please contact Brittany at our office 352- 336-0839 ext. 30 or brittany.avery-foisington@breadofthemighty.org
DUNKIN’ DELIVERS

This smiling group of hard workers from Dunkin’ sure delivered with their spirit for community and giving! These employees rolled up their sleeves and spent their day volunteering in our warehouse. The much-needed volunteer work helps our food bank move out items faster to get into the hands of individuals and families who are in need. A huge thank you is extended to Jeremy Cyr, Director of Operations Greater Gainesville Market, for allowing his employees to give their time and talent to help fight hunger in our community! Cyr said, “Personally from my own life, growing up never knowing where my next meal was coming from, or when I’d eat next. It’s our opportunity to help other people in our community, so hopefully they don’t have to feel that question of the unknown.”

WE ❤️ OUR VOLUNTEERS

We could not accomplish anything without our volunteers! They are at the heart of our mission and touch so many lives …. lives they will never even meet. Our volunteers range from student groups to volunteers who come in every day! Our volunteers sort and pack food in order to quickly get the food into the hands of the individuals and families in need! So far 2022 has shown us 1,971 volunteer hours from groups and individuals and 143 new volunteers!

Happy Volunteer Appreciation Month...but we appreciate our volunteers every single day of the year!