

April 2023 Hunger Relief Update

All the latest updates on Hunger Relief efforts in PBC

Hunger Relief Monthly Update April 2023

Every month United Way of Palm Beach County (UWPBC)'s Hunger Relief Initiative provides you with important news about hunger relief in Palm Beach County. Information is current as of April 4, 2023. Check out what's new and learn about ongoing work below:

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In the U.S., nearly 40% of our food supply is never eaten. What's the best approach to reducing food loss and waste? To not create it in the first place!

Food waste prevention saves money, protects the environment, and reduces hunger in our communities. With 1 in 5 Americans lacking consistent access to nutritious food, recovering food from being wasted is a critical way to feed the hungry in our communities.

Follow United Way PBC on social media for Food Waste Prevention Week tips and other opportunities. To learn more about how you can reduce food waste, please [click here](#).

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United Way of Palm Beach County has partnered with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) to provide free, confidential, and secure preparation and e-filing of tax returns to qualified taxpayers. To qualify, taxpayer's income must have been \$70,000 or less in 2022. You may be eligible for up to \$6,935 in Earned Income Tax Credits (EITC). The Taxes Filed Free service gives you two options to choose from to e-file your tax return. All options are supported by IRS-Certified Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

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Filed for You – Face-to-face tax preparation provided at several county sites. No appointment needed.

Filed Yourself – Visit www.MyFreeTaxes.com and file your own tax return. It's simple, fast and secure. Support is available via toll-free helpline or web chat.

For more information on where to find a VITA tax site, or what to bring to your tax filing session [click here](#).

FOOD RESOURCES

- **Palm Beach County Senior Centers:** The Palm Beach County Community Services Department's Division of Senior and Veteran Services invites local seniors and veterans aged 60 and older to participate in complimentary breakfast and lunch options at various sites throughout the county. The program provides nutritious meals to eligible seniors at nutrition sites, senior centers, and other group settings. The congregate meal program allows older adults to socialize with other seniors at the meal sites. For a complete list of meal times and locations, [click here](#).
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- **Discover MyPlate – Nutrition Education for Kindergarten:** The USDA's Team Nutrition initiative provides fun resources that foster healthy food choices and physically active lifestyles during children's critical developmental and learning period: kindergarten. Now there are more recipes, food cards, emergent readers, Spanish-language components, and fun new resources showing where food comes from! SNAP-Ed educators can use the materials to assist teachers in introducing the five food groups and MyPlate to kindergarten children. All materials are free and can be found [here](#).
- **Affordable Connectivity Program:** The Affordable Connectivity

Program (ACP) provides eligible low-income households a subsidy of up to \$30 per month on internet service plans offered by participating internet service providers and up to \$75 per month for eligible households on Tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if the household contributes more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price. For more information and to register, please [click here](#).

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- **United Way of Palm Beach County (UWPBC) Vice President of Marketing & Communications:** Responsible for overseeing the agency's brand management and helping lead the strategic direction for the organization. Reporting to the President & CEO, this individual is responsible for the development and execution of the overall communication and marketing strategy for UWPBC and works collaboratively across departments regarding programs the organization supports. For more information, [click here](#).
- **United Way of Palm Beach County (UWPBC) Staff Accountant:** Responsible for providing financial and administrative support including processing and reconciliation of cash receipts between systems, preparation of general or adjusting journal entries, updating general ledger workpapers and assist with supporting schedules relating to grants, programs, or other donor related activity. This position reports to the Director of Finance and works closely with the Senior Accountant. For more information, please [click here](#).
- **United Way of Palm Beach County (UWPBC) Major Gifts Manager:** Responsible for directly contributing to Major Gifts and philanthropic fund development for United Way of Palm Beach County through major gift solicitation and high donor matching grants. For more information, [click here](#).
- **CROS Ministries Gleaning Program Assistant Director:** This position is a program assistant to the Director of Gleaning Program whose aim is to feed hungry people through the recovery and distribution of nutritious produce that would otherwise be wasted. This is a full-time position with seasonal schedule fluctuations. Beginning hourly rate is \$17-\$20 depending on experience. For more details on the position and how to apply, please [click here](#).

HUNGER RELIEF MEETINGS

We could not do our work without you! The Hunger Relief Initiative uses the Collective Impact Model to implement the [Palm Beach County Hunger Relief Plan](#) and make sustainable, long-term changes to reduce hunger in Palm Beach County. We do this work through our Hunger Relief Advisory Council and the Council's work groups and subcommittees.

The staff regularly convenes the Hunger Relief Advisory Council, five Work Groups, and two Subcommittees. [Please send us an email to learn more.](#)

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

CROS Gleaning

CROS Gleaning Program: CROS Ministries' Gleaning Program works in partnership with area Food Banks and other food distribution agencies in Palm Beach and Martin Counties. Food recovery is prevented food waste, which refers to food that is fit for consumption but consciously discarded post-harvest. Gleaning is a food recovery strategy that allows produce that is below top market grade or unmarketable, but equally nutritious and beneficial to be harvested and distributed to those facing food insecurities in Palm Beach and Martin Counties instead of being plowed back into the soil.

Since people live apart from where their food is grown, gleaning requires volunteers to bridge the gap between the field and the pantry to bring food to locations where people in need can receive it. Farmers donate the produce they cannot sell to CROS Ministries while volunteers gather the produce. Our food-distributing partners then distribute the recovered produce to local agencies with feeding programs for individuals and families with low-incomes, seniors, people with disabilities, and the homeless. The food is given away free of charge. To find out more about gleaning and how you could be involved, please [click here](#).

The Hunger Relief Team is appreciative of everything you do for our

community. Please feel free to reach out to us anytime by calling 561-375-6600 or [emailing us](#).

Stay Connected!

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- **Hepatitis Infections Prompt Recall of Organic Frozen Fruit:** Hepatitis A infections recently prompted the Scenic Fruit Company to recall frozen fruit sold at Trader Joe's, Costco, and Aldi. There were at least five infections of the contagious liver disease before the recall that applies to the Organic Tropical Fruit Blend Pineapple, Bananas, Strawberries & Mango sold at Trader Joe's, and organic frozen strawberries sold under five different brand names at Costco and Aldi. To find out more, please [click here](#).

- **FRAC Applauds the U.S. Department of Agriculture Efforts to Expand Community Eligibility:** The Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) applauds the USDA's recent announcement of a proposed rule to expand the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP). CEP allows high-poverty schools and districts to offer breakfast and lunch at no charge to all students and reduces administrative paperwork and costs for schools, increases school meal participation, eliminates stigma, maximizes federal reimbursements, and makes it easier to implement Breakfast in the Classroom and other innovative breakfast models. Prior to the pandemic, about one in one in three schools were offering free meals to all students through CEP. To read more about this effort, please [click here](#).

- **Discover MyPlate – Nutrition Education for Kindergarten:** The USDA's Team Nutrition initiative provides fun resources that foster healthy food choices and physically active lifestyles during children's critical developmental and learning period: kindergarten. Now there are more recipes, food cards, emergent readers, Spanish-language components, and fun new resources showing where food comes from! SNAP-Ed educators can use the materials to assist teachers in introducing the five food groups and MyPlate to kindergarten children. All materials are free and can be found [here](#).

- **Affordable Connectivity Program:** The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) provides eligible low-income households a subsidy of up to \$30 per month on internet service plans offered by participating internet service providers and up to \$75 per month for eligible households on Tribal

lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers if the household contributes more than \$10 and less than \$50 toward the purchase price. For more information and to register, please [click here](#).

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- **United Way of Palm Beach County (UWPBC) Vice President of Marketing & Communications:** Responsible for overseeing the agency's brand management and helping lead the strategic direction for the organization. Reporting to the President & CEO, this individual is responsible for the development and execution of the overall communication and marketing strategy for UWPBC and works collaboratively across departments regarding programs the organization supports. For more information, [click here](#).
- **United Way of Palm Beach County (UWPBC) Staff Accountant:** Responsible for providing financial and administrative support including processing and reconciliation of cash receipts between systems, preparation of general or adjusting journal entries, updating general ledger workpapers and assist with supporting schedules relating to grants, programs, or other donor related activity. This position reports to the Director of Finance and works closely with the Senior Accountant. For more information, please [click here](#).
- **United Way of Palm Beach County (UWPBC) Major Gifts Manager:** Responsible for directly contributing to Major Gifts and philanthropic fund development for United Way of Palm Beach County through major gift solicitation and high donor matching grants. For more information, [click here](#).
- **CROS Ministries Gleaning Program Assistant Director:** This position is a program assistant to the Director of Gleaning Program whose aim is to feed hungry people through the recovery and distribution of nutritious produce that would otherwise be wasted. This is a full-time position with seasonal schedule fluctuations. Beginning hourly rate is \$17-\$20 depending on experience. For more details on the position and how to apply, please [click here](#).

HUNGER RELIEF MEETINGS

We could not do our work without you! The Hunger Relief Initiative uses the Collective Impact Model to implement the [Palm Beach County Hunger Relief Plan](#) and make sustainable, long-term changes to reduce hunger in Palm Beach County. We do this work through our Hunger Relief Advisory Council and the Council's work groups and subcommittees.

The staff regularly convenes the Hunger Relief Advisory Council, five Work Groups, and two Subcommittees. [Please send us an email to learn more.](#)

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

CROS Gleaning

CROS Gleaning Program: CROS Ministries' Gleaning Program works in partnership with area Food Banks and other food distribution agencies in Palm Beach and Martin Counties. Food recovery is prevented food waste, which refers to food that is fit for consumption but consciously discarded post-harvest. Gleaning is a food recovery strategy that allows produce that is below top market grade or unmarketable, but equally nutritious and beneficial to be harvested and distributed to those facing food insecurities in Palm Beach and Martin Counties instead of being plowed back into the soil.

Since people live apart from where their food is grown, gleaning requires volunteers to bridge the gap between the field and the pantry to bring food to locations where people in need can receive it. Farmers donate the produce they cannot sell to CROS Ministries while volunteers gather the produce. Our food-distributing partners then distribute the recovered produce to local agencies with feeding programs for individuals and families with low-incomes, seniors, people with disabilities, and the homeless. The food is given away free of charge. To find out more about gleaning and how you could be involved, please [click here](#).

The Hunger Relief Team is appreciative of everything you do for our community. Please feel free to reach out to us anytime by calling 561-375-6600 or [emailing us](#).

Stay Connected!