



COMMUNITY FOOD NEWS

A newsletter for Rhode Island Community Food Bank member agencies.

Winter 2010

Agency Advisory Committee

Chairperson

Kristin Allen
CONNECTING FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Board of Directors Liaisons

Bob McDonough
Susan Santos

Network Advisory Members

The following attended meetings this past Fall 2009:

Lorraine Burns
ST. TERESA OF AVILA

Liz O Dea
POVERELLO CENTER

Bob MacDonald
EAST BAY CAP

Cathy Chappron
VIOLET HILL CLUB ASSOCIATION

Larry Coughlin
WESTBAY CAP MARKET PLACE

Susan Gustaitis
PEACEDALE JOHNNYCAKE CENTER

Claire Letizio
BRADFORD JOHNNYCAKE CENTER

Father Gary Lemery
EDGEWOOD PAWTUXET FOOD

Michele Baker
BRIDGES, INC.

Lily Ramey
EBCAP OF NEWPORT

CONTRIBUTING STAFF

KELLY LEBEAU

LONI MCGRATH



Primarius Online Ordering

"I love to be able to place orders on my timetable with up to date inventory information," POL pilot group participant.

Are you ready to join us?

At the time of print, nearly 15% of our members have begun ordering online. The Agency Resource Room at the Food Bank now offers a computer for members to use to place orders online if they do not already have the convenience of a computer at work or home. We encourage our agencies to stop by the Food Bank soon to learn more and to view our POL thermometer and see a current listing of member agencies ordering online now.

Additionally, we are issuing an initiative called, **The First 100, May Win 100 Challenge!** We are offering an entry for a raffle prize of a \$100 shared maintenance credit for their agency to the first 100 member agencies that begin ordering online. If your agency is one of the first 100 to place orders online, the Food Bank will enter you into a raffle to win this prize. We have also begun offering online only specials! Check our Hotlist to view these great deals.

The Food Bank has a number of materials available to our network, which include a Primarius Online (POL) User's Guide with step by step instructions, a How-To Enter Statistics Online sheet, and a Frequently Asked Questions sheet. We are also offering POL training classes on the following dates: January 29 from 10-10:45 AM, February 19 from 12-12:45 PM, and March 19 from 3-3:45 PM. Please call Agency Services to register for the trainings.

It's Renewal Time for 'Non-Emergency Providers'

It has been our policy that every two years we request that all of our member agencies renew their membership with us. Renewals have been an important Food Bank membership requirement. Renewing memberships enables us to ensure that we have up-to-date contact information and other vital data about our agencies. However, we would like to make this less cumbersome for our members.

We are simplifying the way we renew our agency membership. The new process is called **recertification** and it will reduce the paperwork required by our agencies:

1. **No more renewal applications.** With the new process, our members will update their information on a yearly basis, rather than every two years. Agencies will no longer need to fill out renewal applications; agency information will be pre-printed on a form and members will be asked to simply verify the information and mail a signed copy back to us. Like renewals, recertifications will be mailed to Executive Directors to review and sign.
2. **No more renewal fees!** The Food Bank will no longer request renewal fees after this year. We hope that this change will help our members redirect the funds used for Food Bank renewals to assist with day to day operations. This year, non-emergency providers will need to pay for one year only.

This year we are recertifying agencies classified as non-emergency providers currently and in the recent past. This includes programs that have qualified for emergency provider product during our Primarius conversion, such as transitional housing organizations and re-habilitation agencies, and group home food centers.

Please call Agency Services at 942-6325 with any questions.



Annual Agency Conference

Saturday
May 8, 2010

Crowne Plaza
Warwick, RI.

More details to come.

Food Bank Attends Feeding America's Agency Capacity, Programs and Nutrition Conference

This fall the Food Bank sent three staff members to the Agency Capacity, Programs and Nutrition Conference in Chicago. Our Chief Executive Officer, Andrew Schiff attended as one of the panelists who presented the SNAP Outreach Leveraging Federal Funds session. The objective of the conference was to build core competencies across the network in the areas of programs, agency capacity, food safety, regulatory and contract compliance, nutrition, and disaster response. Kelly LeBeau and Loni McGrath in Agency Services also attended the conference and spent three days attending workshops geared towards supporting our agencies in this economy of rising need.



The Food Bank will be **closed** on the following upcoming holidays:
January 18 and February 15.

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Questions from the Network

Q: *If the freezing point is 32 degrees, why does my freezer thermometer have to read 0?*

A: Because of the water content in food, different foods freeze at different degrees. By keeping your freezer thermometer at 0, you are ensuring that all foods are safe, regardless of their water content.

Q: *What kind of produce doesn't need to be put in the cooler?*

A: Root vegetables like potatoes, carrots and onions do not need to be stored in the cooler. If your agency does not receive and distribute fresh produce on a daily basis, we recommend storing all other produce in the cooler.

Q: *Why does my church food pantry need to post a sign about our pantry days and hours? Our clients already know when we are open.*

A: Feeding America and the Food Bank require our emergency provider members to have a sign posted with their days and hours of food assistance for several reasons:

- Other members of your community, beyond your already registered clients, may need food assistance or know someone else who does,
- People without phone or Internet access may not have learned about your program without walking past your agency door,
- Agencies need to update their sign when they are closed due to holidays, inclement weather, etc.,
- United Way 2-1-1 may refer someone to your agency who has never been there, they'll need to know which door to enter and your regular hours of operation,
- For programs that do not have a vestibule or a covered awning to protect a paper sign, and your budget doesn't allow for a more permanent sign, we recommend that the sign gets laminated or put into a plastic sleeve so that rain, snow, etc. does not ruin it.

Status Report on Hunger Released!

The prevalence of hunger in Rhode Island has reached the highest level in ten years.

That was just one of the major findings of the Rhode Island Community Food Bank's Status Report on Hunger in Rhode Island, an annual publication that was released on November 23, 2009 during a press conference at our facility.



For more information, check out our website at <http://www.rifoodbank.org> and click on the Status Report on Hunger link.

Around the Network

Is your agency hosting a fundraiser, event or do you have other news to share with the network?

The Food Bank can post a photo or blurb of an activity for your agency on the *Member Agencies* page of our website.

Check it out! We currently have East Bay Food Pantry and Blackstone Valley Emergency Food Center highlighted.

Please contact Agency Services for more information.

EGG-IN-THE-HOLE-WHEAT

This recipe was provided by Kelly LeBeau, Agency Services Coordinator.

Eating a good breakfast helps both kids and adults maintain a healthy weight and have lower blood cholesterol. Try this quick fix below to start the day with a boost of fiber and protein!

Ingredients

1 slice of 100% whole wheat bread
1 large egg
Pinch paprika, optional

1 to 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Directions

1. Cut a 2-inch round from the center of the bread, reserving the round.
2. Melt a nut size bit of butter in a small nonstick skillet over medium heat.
3. Place the slice of bread and the round side by side in skillet and toast lightly, about 1 minute.
4. Add butter as needed to brown and crisp the toast if desired.
5. Crack the egg into the center hole and season with salt and pepper, cook until golden brown, about 2 minutes.
6. Flip the egg and round, season with the egg with salt and pepper. Cook another 2 minutes for a runny yolk, or slightly longer for a set egg.
7. Transfer egg-in-the-hole wheat to a plate and sprinkle with paprika, if desired.
8. Serve, and use the toasted round for dipping into the yolk.

Census 2010 Partnership Update

The 2010 Census questionnaires will be delivered or mailed to households in March.

There are 10 simple, but important questions and it should only take 10 minutes to complete. If you or your clients have any questions, contact Marta Martinez at marta.martinez@census.gov.

For more information, check out our website at <http://www.rifoodbank.org> and click on the Census bag link.

Community Meetings & Workshops for Agencies

Woonsocket Forum: February date TBD at Bryan's Food Center, Woonsocket. Call Kelly for info at ext. 241.
Newport County Forum: April date TBD at the Florence Gray Center, Newport. Call Loni for info at ext. 253.
Client's Choice Food Pantry: Monday, February 8 from 1:00 - 3:00 PM at the Food Bank.
Mental Health Challenges: Monday, February 22 from 10:00 - 11:30 AM at the Food Bank.
Shopping Smart & SNAP: Monday, March 22 from 11:30 - 1 PM at the Food Bank.

Registration is required for all workshops, please call us today!

Agency Orientations

Orientations are required for any new staff or volunteers who will be ordering, shopping, or picking up food from the Food Bank. Orientations are also a good reference for anyone who would like to brush up on their Food Bank knowledge.

SCHEDULE:

January: Thursday, January 21 from 3:00 - 5:30 PM

February: Wednesday, February 10 from 9:30 AM - 12 OR Thursday, February 25 from 3:00 - 5:30 PM

To register, or to find out when more Orientations are being held, call Agency Services at 942-6325.

Mission Statement

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank provides food to people in need and promotes long-term solutions to the problem of hunger.