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# FOOD BANK

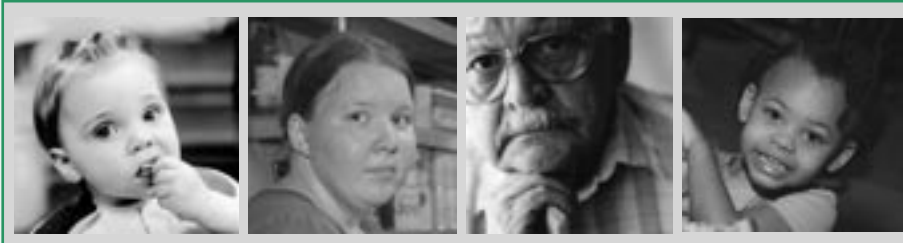
## news

SPRING  
2007

### Food Insecurity Now Affects 1 in 8 Rhode Island Households

In recent years, Rhode Island's rate of food insecurity has grown to be the highest of all New England states and has exceeded the national average. Sadly, hunger in our state is increasing.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture released a new report announcing that 12.4 percent of Rhode Island households are considered to be food insecure. A household is considered food insecure when there is an inability to obtain enough food for an active, healthy life for every household member. During this same period, the national rate of food insecurity stood at 9.7 percent.



"As we mark our 25th year, it is distressing that Rhode Island's rate of food insecurity is the highest it has been since the USDA began tracking this figure," commented Rosie Connors, Senior Director of Development & Communications for the Food Bank. "This increase is due to many factors and coupled with the challenge of national food industry trends that have led to declining donations to food banks, we've had to become even more resourceful to acquire food to meet the growing need. While the Food Bank's distribution has tripled in the past 7 years, hunger has grown with it."

Despite these trends, the Food Bank remains dedicated and creative in our programming approach to helping the hungry of our state. Your support makes these new programs possible.

- **Community Repack:** Highly nutritious, bulk products like rice, pasta and produce are repackaged into family-sized quantities for distribution.
- **Fresh Marketplace:** To help Providence agencies obtain fresh, locally-grown produce for their clients, the Food Bank organized a weekly outdoor marketplace at its facility.
- **Neighborhood Pantry Express:** A direct delivery program that brings fresh produce to areas of the state with the highest unmet need, currently operating in Woonsocket and Newport with plans for expansion.
- **Fresh Rescue:** Perishable, healthy, nutritious core products such as produce, dairy and meats are collected from local supermarkets for distribution prior to code expiration.

There are thousands of working families in our state who live paycheck to paycheck. In fact, our member agencies have seen an increase in the number of working poor accessing pantries for help. Last year, almost one-third of all the households served by the Food Bank had at *least* one or more adults working. After paying the rent or mortgage along with utilities, often there just isn't enough money left for food.

With increasing numbers of Rhode Islanders facing hunger and food insecurity, the Food Bank and its network of member agencies continues to be a vital resource for our hungry neighbors in need of food assistance. With your help, we will be there.

***"We've had to become even more resourceful to acquire food to meet the growing need."***

### Letter Carriers to Collect for 15th Year

#### *Community Encouraged to Give Generously*

For the 15th year, the National Association of Letter Carriers will be doing more than just delivering your mail on May 12th - they will be helping to make a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

During their daily routes, local letter carriers will be collecting food for the Rhode Island Community Food Bank. To participate, leave a bag of non-perishable food by your mailbox on Saturday, May 12th and your letter carrier will deliver it to the Food Bank.



***Since 1993, the NALC has collected over 2.6 million pounds in RI.***

Each year the Letter Carriers Food Drive is one of the Food Bank's largest collections, a trend we hope continues in 2007. "We have been experiencing a decline in traditional, non-perishable food donations from within the food industry the past few years," states Bruce Zarembka, Director of Acquisition & Distribution for the Food Bank. "The food that comes in through this drive and the generosity of the community is exactly what we need."

The Annual Letter Carriers Food Drive is made possible by the National Association of Letter Carriers, the United Way of Rhode Island, AFL-CIO Community Services and the United States Postal Service.

**RI COMMUNITY FOOD BANK - 200 NIANTIC AVENUE, PROVIDENCE, RI 02907 - (401) 942-MEAL**

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank provides quality food to people facing hunger through our network of certified member agencies. It also provides leadership and information to promote citizen action, advance government nutrition assistance, and promote private efforts aimed at developing effective solutions toward the elimination of hunger in Rhode Island.

Thank You for Making a Difference for 25 Years



Today, as the Rhode Island Community Food Bank prepares to face new challenges and opportunities with the same fervor of the past 25 years, I want to take this opportunity to thank those who have joined the fight against hunger; our Member Agencies, our volunteers, our donors and our dedicated staff and Board of Directors. Together, we are responsible for an untold number of individual acts of kindness and generosity each and every day. These acts mean a world of difference to so many of our neighbors who find themselves in need of food.

Our Member Agencies, a network of almost 400 organizations and programs, work tirelessly to get food to the people who need it most while exhibiting care and respecting the dignity of the individuals. They are champions of the mission, providing food to our community's neediest families and individuals, who would otherwise go hungry.

To our volunteers, the army of individuals who donate their valuable time to helping our neighbors in need, we express extreme gratitude for your tenacity and determination to our cause. Just as with our network of Member Agencies, we would not be able to perform our work without your invaluable help. Last year alone, you contributed a mind-boggling total of over 33,000 hours. To all of you, a hardy and heartfelt thanks.

To our dedicated donors, thank you. Without your support we simply would not be able to provide food to those in need. For the past 25 years, your willingness to share your resources with the less

fortunate has made it possible for us to provide a seat at the table for those among us who simply need help in providing food for themselves and their families.

The success of our mission also requires a dedicated staff and Board of Directors. Over the years, we have been very fortunate to engage individuals in these roles that are fully committed to the eradication of hunger in our community. Our challenges ahead appear daunting but through our collective resolve, we never forget our mission.

The environment for food banking has and continues to change. Donated food from the food industry has declined, food sourcing has become more costly and the food that we do receive is, at times, more difficult to handle based on its perishable state. Regardless of these changes and challenges, our constant remains the unwavering support from all of you.

From here, our goals must be to keep the Food Bank and our network of Member Agencies adequately supplied with food, funds and volunteers. We must obtain greater support from our state government for the acquisition of more quality nutritious food. We must initiate dialogue with those not involved and invite them into our work. Collectively, this is a battle we can win.

Our challenges are many but our commitment is endless. Through our collective resolve, we will accomplish our mission and bring an end to hunger in our state.



Douglas Johnson  
President, Board of Directors

"PB Xpress" Sets Goal of 12 Tons

March 1st began the Washington Trust Company's seventh annual "PB Xpress," a bank-wide drive to collect jars of peanut butter for the Rhode Island Community Food Bank and local food pantries. The drive, which brings in much-needed protein for our hungry neighbors, will run through the end of the month.

Customers of Washington Trust and members of the community are encouraged to stop by any of the bank's 16 branches and donate jars of peanut butter.

Additionally, on Saturday, March 24th, join Giovanni & Kim from 92 PRO-FM's top-rated morning show at Washington Trust's Cranston branch, located at 645 Reservoir Avenue, for a live-remote broadcast and collection. Anyone who stops by to donate peanut butter during the broadcast, which will run from 10am to 1pm, will also have the chance to win prizes from PRO-FM.

Inquiries regarding the "PB Xpress," including how your school, civic group, organization or business can participate in the drive, may be directed to Charlene Davenport at Washington Trust at (401) 348-1363.



# URI College of the Environment and Life Sciences Growing Produce for Rhode Island's Hungry

**A**fter a successful 2006 harvest, the University of Rhode Island's College of the Environment and Life Sciences and the Rhode Island Community Food Bank have once again joined forces to help the hungry of our state.

During last year's partnership, the University committed approximately 5 acres of land to the project to grow sweet corn, hubbard squash and butternut squash. The crops were harvested by URI students and community volunteers throughout the fall semester, resulting in over 63,000 pounds of fresh produce.

For 2007, CELS is again planning to grow winter squash, but has also expanded the crop to include broccoli and perhaps some cabbage and turnips. The addition of these

crops will allow for a later harvest date, resulting in fresh produce being available to the Food Bank and its member agencies later into the fall season.

One of the most important aspects of this partnership is the involvement of URI students. CELS students and scores of university freshmen are incorporated at every level of the effort, from planting, growing and harvesting of the crops to the development of community nutrition outreach programs and recipes designed to encourage the consumption of fresh produce by families.

Ultimately, the College of the Environment and Life Sciences

and the Food Bank hope to expand the project in coming years so that even more produce and nutritional information can be provided to needy families.



*CELS is dedicated to helping those in need by providing valuable produce.*

## Honor a Mom!

As Mother's Day quickly approaches, does the Mom in your life have everything? Are you stuck on what to give her this year? If so, a gift to her favorite charity may be the perfect choice.

The Rhode Island Community Food Bank will send a card, in her name, to let mom know an honorary gift was made for Mother's Day and helped provide a healthy meal. Please visit our website or call Kelly at (401) 942-6325 ext. 256.



## Volunteer at the Farm

Interested in volunteering outdoors? Do you want to help fellow Rhode Islanders? If so, the RI Community Farm has an opportunity for you at one of our state-wide locations. Contact Kirsten French at (401) 942-6325 ext. 212 to sign-up or visit our website.

### Farm Locations

- Bristol - Mount Hope**
- Bristol - Magaziner Farm**
- Cumberland - Franklin Farm**
- Cumberland - St. John Vianney**
- Smithfield - St. Philips**
- Foster - Border's Farm**

## CANSTRUCTION Can Help

**W**e are excited to announce that CANSTRUCTION, an international community service project of the design and construction industry, has found its way to Rhode Island.

Join us for Rhode Island's first CANSTRUCTION competition, bringing design and building professionals together to construct huge, 800 cubic foot food sculptures, crafted entirely out of canned food. The amazing competition will benefit the Rhode Island Community Food Bank.

The event, sponsored by the Society for Design Administration and the American Institute of Architects, helps to bring awareness to the very real issue of hunger in our country. These dynamic sculptures capture the imagination, exhibit innovation,

build awareness and help feed the hungry.

Beginning on April 1st and continuing through April 14th, visit the Concourse of Providence Place to view these impressive works of art, free of charge. Once the viewing period is complete, the sculptures will be broken down and the food will be transported to the Food Bank where it will be packaged for distribution to those who need it most.

For thousands of Rhode Islanders, each day begins and ends with the anguish of hunger. Show your support for the fight against hunger and come visit these larger-than-life masterpieces. **Additionally, join us on April 12th for an Awards Reception at the concourse from 6-8pm. Tickets are \$30 each.**



*One Can Makes a Difference!*

## Mark National Hunger Awareness Day by Joining the Food Bank for Lunch

On **Tuesday, June 5th**, join the Rhode Island Community Food Bank for lunch at "One Big Table" to mark National Hunger Awareness Day at the Bank of America City Center in Downtown Providence.

National Hunger Awareness Day is a public awareness initiative led by America's Second Harvest, The Nation's Food Bank Network. The goal of the day is to remind people throughout the country that hunger is a serious, but solvable problem.

In Rhode Island, the Food Bank will be serving a brown bag lunch, provided by Whole Foods Market. For a \$10 contribution, you can pick up a delicious lunch and beverage. Sit and eat at "One Big Table" or grab and go.

Organize friends, co-workers and colleagues to join us for lunch and help set a place for everyone at the table. Lunches will be available for pre-order by visiting [www.rifoodbank.org](http://www.rifoodbank.org) or by calling the Food Bank at (401) 942-6325. **Rain date is June 6th.**



Show your support for the fight against hunger on June 5th.

## Save These Important Dates

### "PB Xpress" & 92 PRO-FM Live Remote Broadcast Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

Between 10am and 1pm on March 24th, join Giovanni & Kim of 92 PRO-FM's top-rated morning show for a live remote broadcast from Washington Trust's Cranston branch at the corner of Reservoir and Park Avenues. The Food Bank will be on hand to collect donations of peanut butter.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Annual RI CANSTRUCTION April 1<sup>st</sup> - 14<sup>th</sup>

Please join us for Rhode Island's first ever CANSTRUCTION competition to benefit the Food Bank. The event brings design and building professionals together to construct sculptures built entirely out of cans. The food will then be donated to the Food Bank for distribution to families in need of help.

Please visit the Concourse of Providence Place to view these works of art and submit your vote for the winner of the People's Choice award. Admission is free.

### Governor's "Fill the Food Bank" Summer Food Drive

**July 9<sup>th</sup> through August 17<sup>th</sup>**

On Monday, July 9th, The Rhode Island Community Food Bank will kick off the 2007 Governor's "Fill the Food Bank" Summer Food Drive. During the summer, as children are home from school, the Food Bank and our network of member agencies see an increase in need, but you can help.

Members of the community and businesses are encouraged to organize individual food drives. Donations are also accepted at the Food Bank Monday through Friday, between 8am - 4pm. Special thanks to signature sponsor Fidelity.



### Most-Needed Food Drive Items

<b>Canned Soup</b>	<b>Tuna</b>
<b>Peanut Butter</b>	<b>Nuts</b>
<b>Dried Fruits</b>	<b>Breakfast Cereals</b>
<b>Pasta &amp; Rice</b>	<b>Graham Crackers</b>
<b>Granola Bars</b>	<b>Canned Fruit</b>
<b>Tomato Sauce</b>	<b>Crackers</b>
<b>Extra Virgin Olive Oil</b>	
<b>Canned or Dried Beans</b>	
<b>Boxed Macaroni &amp; Cheese</b>	
<b>Canned Vegetables</b>	



1 out of every 3 people served is a child under the age of 18.

## Meet the Feinstein Challenge

For the tenth year, RI Philanthropist Alan Shawn Feinstein will donate \$1 million among hunger-fighting agencies nationwide.

The match will be distributed proportionately among all agencies who raise funds. Every dollar donated to the Food Bank between March 1st and April 30th will be reported to Mr. Feinstein for his match.

**Deadline: April 30<sup>th</sup>**

## Great Chefs, Wines & Beers of the Ocean State Hosted by Sakonnet Vineyards

In celebration of our 25th Anniversary Year, we are excited to announce a new event, "Great Chefs, Wines & Beers of the Ocean State" hosted by Sakonnet Vineyards and sponsored by Webster Bank to be held on **Sunday, June 24th from 1pm - 4pm.**

Enjoy the food, wines and beers of over 30 of the best chefs, wineries and breweries in Rhode Island. Eat and drink while enjoying the beautiful grounds of Sakonnet Vineyards. Stroll the property exploring the vineyards and the winery, and enjoy the sophisticated country atmosphere.

Join us for this extraordinary event at Sakonnet Vineyards in Little Compton and help the Food Bank meet the food and nutritional needs of 50,000 Rhode Islanders.

Tickets are \$75 each and can be purchased at [www.rifoodbank.org](http://www.rifoodbank.org) or by calling (401) 942-6325. The event will be held rain or shine.



Enjoy the beautiful scenery of Sakonnet Vineyards while supporting the Food Bank.