

THE SPOONFUL

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM YOUR AGENCY RELATIONS TEAM

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Keep Neighbors Safe

TRAIN YOUR TEAM

Did you know that every distribution needs at least one person with a Safe Food Handling Certificate present?

Having a backup certified team member keeps your agency compliant and your neighbors safe.

Getting certified is easy and only \$10 through Responsible Training!

- ✓ Check your certificates for their expiration
- ✓ Train a backup team member
- ✓ Keep food safe for our community

Scan the QR Code to visit Responsible Training today and get certified!



Reflecting on Black History Month

JENNIFER HILAIRE'S IMPACT RECOGNIZED



As we reflect on Black History Month, we're proud to highlight one of our partner agency champions making a difference in Central Florida.

On February 19, U.S. Representative Maxwell Frost hosted the **4th Annual Black History Month Luminary Ceremony** at the Heart of West Lakes Wellness Center, bringing together more than 120 community members to honor black leaders whose work leaves a lasting impact.

Among those recognized was **Jennifer Hilaire of The Desire Foundation**, one of our valued partners. Rep. Frost read the honorees' names into the official Congressional Record, ensuring their contributions are permanently part of our nation's history. "These leaders come from many fields, but what unites them is a deep commitment to serving others and opening doors for the next generation," he shared.

Jennifer's leadership reflects the everyday impact of our partner agencies, extending dignity, strengthening communities, and supporting neighbors in need. While Black History Month gives us a time to honor these stories, their influence continues every day.

We are proud to celebrate Jennifer, whose achievements are recognized nationally but felt throughout Central Florida.

International Women's Day

CELEBRATING WOMEN WHO LEAD



This **International Women's Day**, we honor the incredible women who power our partner agencies. Your dedication, compassion, & hard work make a real difference in the lives of the neighbors we serve.

Thank you for inspiring us every day with your commitment and heart!



Heart of Service

SPOTLIGHTING PATTI'S PASSION FOR SUPPORTING AGENCIES & NEIGHBORS



In honor of International Women's Day, we're proud to spotlight **Patti Delacruz, Agency Relations Director** at Second Harvest, whose leadership and heart for service help strengthen our partner agency network every day.

Patti's passion for helping others started early. As a child, she often found herself worrying about people who might not have enough to eat or a safe place to sleep. She never understood why some had so much while others struggled, and that question stayed with her throughout her life.

Before joining Second Harvest, Patti spent 20 years with the Girl Scouts of the USA, where she encouraged young girls to see service to others as one of life's most important responsibilities.

When it came time for a career shift, she saw Second Harvest as the perfect place to continue inspiring people to care for their communities while helping families worry a little less about their next meal.

Today, Patti says the most rewarding part of her role is watching the Agency Relations Team and Partner Agencies face challenges with determination and heart. No matter the obstacle, the focus is always on finding a way forward and supporting neighbors in need.



She also wants more people to understand the dedication of partner agencies on the front lines. Many volunteers give up weekends and personal time to distribute food to hundreds of families, offering not just meals but hope during difficult seasons.

Patti describes her leadership style in one word: belief. She shared **“what people need most is for someone to believe in them.”**

YOU'RE INVITED TO

SECOND HARVEST UNIVERSITY

ANNUAL AGENCY CONFERENCE



JULY 10, 2026

For our **10th Annual Partner Agency Conference**, we're rolling out the welcome mat for Second Harvest University, a reunion-inspired gathering designed to celebrate the incredible network that makes this work possible.

Second Harvest University is all about honoring knowledge, collaboration, and innovation, while building momentum for what's ahead.

Expect engaging sessions, meaningful connections, and plenty of moments to celebrate just how far we've come together. Save the date— July 10th!

We will have more details coming your way soon!

Agency Spotlight

CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPARD FOOD BANK



The Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd has been serving neighbors facing food insecurity **since the 1800s, with deep roots in community care in Central Florida.** Located in Maitland near historic Eatonville, the church continues this mission, meeting the needs of neighbors across both communities.

Twice a month, the pantry distributes groceries including shelf-stable items, frozen meat, and fresh produce through drive-up and walk-up service. Once a month, toiletry items are included, and bags of non-perishable food are available during the week.

The pantry now serves an average of 290 families and nearly 1,100 individuals each month, with numbers steadily growing.



Operating from a small campus, the pantry relies on volunteers from neighboring churches and grant funding. When 2024 funding concerns arose, church members and community partners ensured services continued uninterrupted.

After COVID, the pantry's drive-through model allowed it to serve more neighbors and welcome new volunteers, including youth. A memorable moment came when a Lynx bus driver, after bringing neighbors, shared that she too was in need, a reminder that **food insecurity can affect anyone.**



Partnership with Second Harvest has been key, offering discounted food, pre-ordering, and additional programs. Support from local churches, businesses, city departments, and community events like the annual Chili Cook-off further strengthens their work.

We are grateful for the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd and their centuries-long commitment to compassion and service!

WANT MORE OF THE SPOONFUL?

Visit our Partner Agency Website
for more information, resources,
and other helpful tools!

shfbpartneragencies.org

