

MEALS OF
HOPE

The *Hunger* to
HOPE
Capital Campaign

The Next Chapter Begins.
Campaign for Expanded Impact
in Southwest Florida

The campaign to feed more families in Southwest Florida

Building **HOPE** for the next 20 Years and **BEYOND.**

Building **HOPE** for the next 20 Years and **BEYOND.**

The campaign to feed more families in Southwest Florida





Celebrating 18 Years of Meals of Hope

As we mark our 18th year, we reflect on our humble beginnings, notable achievements, and future plans.

The idea for Meals of Hope was born when my family witnessed children in a poor Haitian school were starving and couldn't learn. Inspired by a meal packing program in the Midwest, we launched our first event in August 2007, with the support of the Rotary Club of Naples. That day, 500 volunteers packed over 135,000 meals, which we donated to Haiti and the Harry Chapin Food Bank. With the success of this event, we set a goal to feed people in SWFL and packed 1 million meals in our first year.

Over time, we improved our meals—adding soy protein, 21 vitamins and minerals, and expanding meal options. In 2012, we purchased a 15,000 sq. ft. warehouse in North Naples. Recognizing limited local food distribution, we launched three mobile food pantries in 2014. Hurricane Irma in 2017 was a turning point, prompting us to distribute food at 45 locations and over 2 million pounds of food that year. We transitioned from primarily meal packing to becoming a major food pantry provider.

Today, we're Florida's largest food pantry operator, with 14 locations in Collier and Lee Counties, distributing frozen meat, fresh produce, canned and dry goods, and baby items to about 4,000 families weekly. We continue to pack eight varieties of dried, fortified meals nationwide, with most meals staying in the communities where they are packed with the revenue generated coming back to assist our local food pantry operations.

Since inception, our volunteers have packed over 115 million meals. Our packing events provide significant volunteer opportunities that teach the importance of giving back. This

year alone, close to 80,000 volunteer hours will be logged throughout the Country. We also partner with agencies like Feeding Dreams, distributing over 100,000 weekend backpacks to food-insecure elementary students across Collier, Lee and Palm Beach counties each school year. Recognizing the lack of baby food distributed at our food pantries, we initiated three local baby food pantries.

We've taken a bold step forward to support the rising need for food assistance in Collier and Lee Counties by making a transformative investment in our future. Recently we purchased an 18,000 sq ft warehouse off Mercantile Avenue in Naples, with more than 9,000 sq ft of cooler and freezer space. This allows us to buy in bulk, supporting both our pantries and other local food programs, especially in times of food shortages.

As we approach our 20th anniversary, we're launching our first Capital Campaign, aiming to raise \$4.5 million over four years. Our most recent audit shows 93% of expenses go directly to hunger programs, reflecting our commitment to responsible stewardship. With your support, we can continue to serve Southwest Florida's food-insecure residents and ensure no one goes to bed hungry.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and support.

Gratefully,

Stephen Popper
Founder & CEO

CONTACT STEPHEN



93%

of Expenses
go directly to
**HUNGER
RELIEF
PROGRAMS**

LARGEST
**FOOD
PANTRY**
provider in Florida



70,164

unduplicated adults,
children & seniors
served in 2024
at food pantries.



14

**PANTRY
LOCATIONS**
in Collier &
Southern Lee
Counties

23 LBS
OF FOOD
distributed
per family per visit

Up to
4,000
Families
served weekly



\$14.1M

annual
economic
impact

Diapers,
feminine
hygiene
& adult
incontinence
products
available at
**EVERY
PANTRY**

Your Gift Builds A Stronger SOUTHWEST *Florida*



Now is the moment to finish what we started.

Meals of Hope has already taken an extraordinary step forward by purchasing and renovating a new food distribution center that expands our ability to fight hunger across Southwest Florida. This new warehouse space will be the beating heart of a more resilient, more responsive hunger relief system to our region.

But to unlock the full impact of this facility, we need your help.

Every Dollar Makes a Difference

- * **93¢ of every dollar** goes directly to hunger relief programs
- * **\$50 provides a week's worth** of groceries for a local family
- * **\$100 helps fuel our mobile pantries** to reach underserved neighborhoods
- * **\$1,000+ helps us purchase in bulk**, feeding more families while stretching every dollar further



The Urgency is Real

Food prices continue climbing while SNAP benefits decline, creating a perfect storm that leaves families choosing between groceries and other necessities. Our new facility positions us to meet this growing need with more food, faster delivery, and unprecedented efficiency. With \$2.2 million already raised toward our \$4.5 million goal, your gift brings us measurably closer to transforming how Southwest Florida fights hunger.

Ways to Make an Impact

- * **One-time donation**
- * **Monthly giving**
- * **Corporate or foundation support**
- * **Naming opportunities available** for major gifts for trucks, pantry areas, and more.

Interested
in a **NAMING**
opportunity?

CONTACT STEPHEN



Together, We Can Feed the Future

Your support builds something profound. It creates a future where every child, every senior, and every family in Southwest Florida has reliable access to nutritious food. This is how communities transform. This is how hope multiplies.

Join us in creating ripples that become waves of change. Every gift matters. Every gift counts.

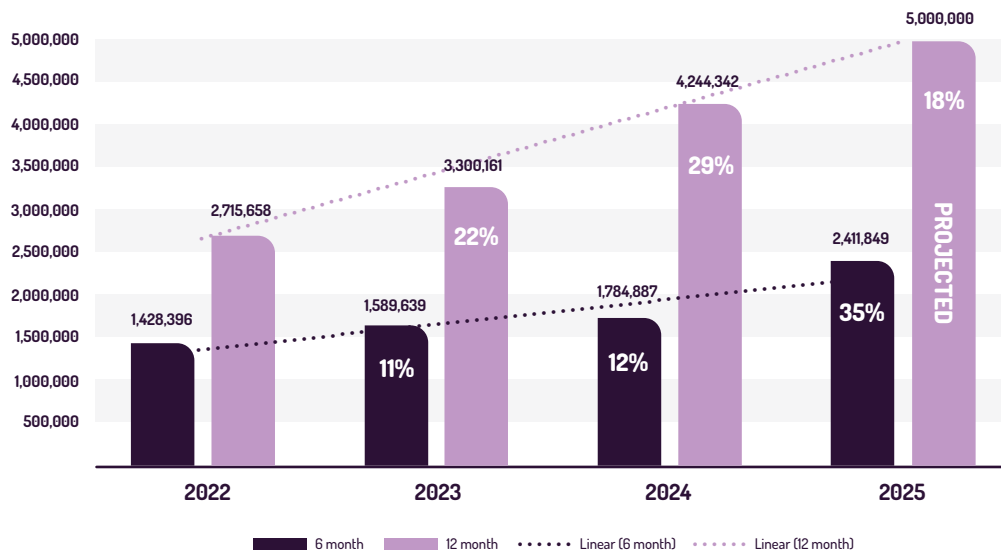
The Case for Support URGENCY & LOCAL Impact



\$186B 
Cut From Food Assistance
Over the Next
10 Years

The hunger crisis in Southwest Florida is accelerating. Cuts to SNAP and other programs, combined with rising food prices, have left more families struggling to put food on the table. Local food systems are overwhelmed, and the gap between need and supply is widening.

MEALS OF HOPE POUNDS OF DONATED FOOD DISTRIBUTED BY YEAR



Meals of Hope has responded by scaling up, serving 4,000 families every week and distributing millions of pounds of food each year. With our new facility, we have the capacity to store more food, purchase in bulk, and share resources with smaller pantries that rely on us.

This campaign ensures we can keep pace with growing demand and continue to strengthen the hunger relief network across the region. **With your support, we can meet this moment and change the future for thousands of families.**

Meals of Hope Works to **FEED OUR** Neighbors



Expanding Support Where It's Needed Most

Meals of Hope is more than a pantry. We are a hub for hunger relief, helping families directly while supplying and supporting other organizations that serve our neighbors in need. Every program we operate multiplies impact, lifting up families and strengthening the entire regional food network.

* **Mobile and Choice Pantries**

14 locations across Collier and Lee Counties provide fresh produce, frozen meats, dry goods, and essential supplies to 4,000 families every week.

* **Baby Pantries**

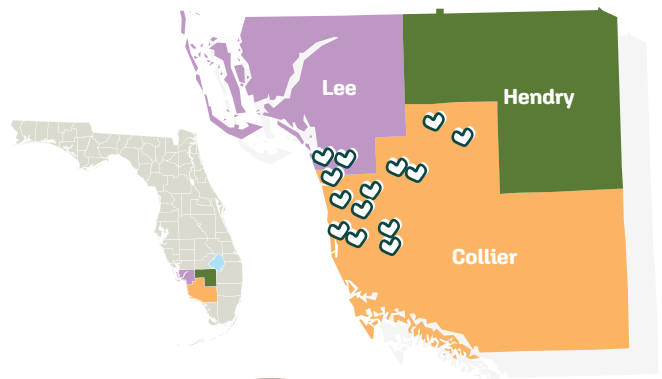
3 locations supply formula, diapers, and healthy snacks for our youngest neighbors, helping parents bridge the gap when budgets fall short.

* **Weekend Backpacks**

Over 130,000 backpacks distributed during the school year ensure children have food when school meals aren't available.

* **Meal Packing Events**

Volunteers pack millions of nutritious meals that stay in their communities and keep our pantry shelves full.



Silvia's Story



Silvia takes a taxi each week to our Baby Pantry in Immokalee, where she receives baby food, formula, snacks, fresh produce, and frozen meat.

“ Without the Meals of Hope Baby Pantry I don't know how I would feed my two children. Formula is so expensive! My oldest daughter loves the fresh fruit. Even though I pay for taxi each way, is still worth coming to Meals of Hope. ”

Our Bold CAMPAIGN *Vision*



Building Capacity for Greater Impact

Meals of Hope has made a decisive move to secure the future of hunger relief in Southwest Florida. The purchase of an 18,000 sq. ft. facility with 9,000 sq. ft. of cold storage, one of the largest among food pantry operators in the country, allows us to scale our operations and meet growing demand.

What This Space Makes Possible

* Storage Expansion

Increased cold storage pallets capacity from 59 to over 300, ensuring stable food supply.

* Regional Food Hub

Ability to buy in bulk and share resources with other local food pantries.

* Operational Efficiency

Multi-bay loading docks improve delivery and distribution speed.



In a time when resources are shrinking,
we are stepping forward to *Expand*
what's possible. – Steve Popper

Your support will help complete this vision and ensure that thousands of families have reliable access to food and dignity in the years ahead.



When you give,
Hope Grows.

Every gift brings us closer to completing a facility that will strengthen hunger relief efforts across Southwest Florida and provide stability for families who rely on us.



Contact: Stephen Popper
Steve@mealsofhope.org
239-537-7775

MEALSOFHOP.ORG