

Food for Thought & Action Forum
September 2016

Paper Plate Pledges

“I will / I will continue to...”

- find opportunities to raise funds/goods for families to help end hunger.
- raise awareness and collect food to feed our youngest neighbors – to end hunger!
- support children’s hunger needs in the Scarborough School Dept & Support Project GRACE.
- direct the Scarborough Food Pantry to feed the hungry.
- work with Project GRACE to assist callers with needs; I will donate to the Scarborough Food Pantry.
- learn more about the issues so I can determine what I’d like to do.
- support food in Scarborough by encouraging farms to (share?) excess food.
- support Project GRACE through convenings like this, the food drive, and never forget my past.
- grow extra vegetables to end hunger in Scarborough.
- help coordinate needs with resources; help identify resources.
- learn more about the needs of people in my community and provide my time to those in need.
- coordinate a quarterly food drive.
- support the backpack program and supply turkeys to the food pantry.
- support backpack program at Wentworth; provide turkeys for Thanksgiving; help feed hungry kids.
- help promote access to information about resources to give and receive help.
- participate and support in any way I can!
- share more hopeful stories to inspire action and community
- connect resources and eliminate barriers to end hunger
- be a supportive, creative, community partner to end hunger
- support fundraising \$ to end hunger

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Flip Chart #1 Who are you serving?

- students and families of Scarborough
- homeless children and their families
- elderly and those ill with cancer
- 'drop-ins' to the church, homeless in Greater-Portland, local families/individuals
- our kids, families, community
- school-age children
- children, families, elderly
- all ages, some shut-ins, some service to transients and non-Scarborough residents
- supplementing food pantries
- anyone who enters Scarborough Food Pantry
- families of Greater-Portland and York County
- homeless/low-income meals
- families of Scarborough and South Portland
- Scarborough Food Pantry
- children K-12
- children K-8, senior citizens, families
- Scarborough families and individuals who come to us, or when we become aware or reach out to, including a group home

SUMMARY:

Serving people who are: children, families, individuals, elderly, shut-ins, homeless, ill

Serving people living in Scarborough, Greater-Portland, York County, and also people without homes/transient

Serving food pantries, group homes, schools, church/community drop-in centers, community

Serving anyone/everyone

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Flip Chart #2

What are you doing?

- Donate food / cash to the food pantry (me too, me too, me too...)
- Growing vegetables
- Here to learn, to help
- Support elders who are food challenged, those who are challenged by illness at CCC in South Portland
- Provide information to people in need or would like to give
- Provide T-day baskets and at Christmas to needy families and the elderly
- Provide gift cards so people can supplement their food budgets
- Recognizing when children need a snack or breakfast
- Getting info for our group
- Buying farmshares for group home serving youth and for food pantry
- Participating in community events, teaching kids how to plant seeds/grow food
- Collecting data on hunger in our community
- Project GRACE board member
- Volunteer – Preble Street – prepare meals
- St Max Community Garden: provide space to grow food for people who need/want it; supplement South Portland Food Cupboard
- Scarborough Community Garden at St. Nick's
- Weekly donations to food cupboard basket at church (incorporate extra item into grocery list)
- Holiday food basket
- Provide turkeys to Scarborough Food Pantry at Thanksgiving; hams at Easter
- Give funds or food to Scarborough Backpack Program when called by Brenda
- Raise awareness about unseen poverty and hunger in Scarborough; collect food for Backpack Program
- Learning about community strengths and areas where we can grow
- Running Scarborough Food Pantry
- Project GRACE volunteer: match need with resources
- Provide assistance to rec/child care programming but now asking if there are needs beyond this
- My church supports Project GRACE with funds, gifts, and provides food for the South Portland Food Cupboard
- Working with a group of community leaders to start a Family Promise affiliate for Greater-Portland

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- Work with Project GRACE to facilitate the efforts
- Cook low-cost soups and casseroles for people at the Scarborough Food Pantry to taste and give them the recipe and ingredients.
- Harvesting vegetables at the Scarborough Community Garden at St Nicks to feed our friends at the Scarborough Food Pantry
- Provide recipes to patrons of Food Pantry
- Tell stories to inspire community/caring/action
- Our church supports the Scarborough Food Pantry with food items, participates in the backpack program, gives to Preble Street, pastor's discretionary giving of food/Hannaford cards to individuals and families; we do education around issues of hunger/food
- Organize and promote food drives
- Offering 'window sill' pots of herbs to the pantry
- Raise money to purchase grocery gift cards and fund community food/nutrition projects

SUMMARY:

Organize/support food drives

Growing food, improving quality of food provided to pantry

Provide "backpacks" of food for schoolchildren/families

Recognizing when children are hungry/need snacks

Support/Manage Food Pantries

Holiday help/baskets/turkeys/hams

Give food to the hungry, cook/serve meals, share recipes, resources

Donate food, money and grocery gift cards, time, skills

Fundraising, promoting giving

Promote awareness, educate, tell stories to encourage action

Learning, gathering information, questioning, collecting data

Participate, organize, board service, lead, organize, support, volunteer, help, facilitate

Belong to a group (church, nonprofit, pantry, town, schools, etc)

See the unseen: poverty, hunger, need in our community

WHEN

Jan X	July XXX
Feb X	Aug XXX
Mar X	Sep XX
Apr XX	Oct XX
May X	Nov XX
June XXX	Dec X

Flip Chart #3 How is it working?

- I think it's working pretty well, but there's definitely room for improvement. I'm really glad we're doing this tonight!
- I wish there was a central place to donate food with daily drop off hours, at least in Summer for produce. Put info in paper (Leader) or on website.
- Transportation, cooking skills, cooking facilities are needed
- Special dietary needs are hard to address
- Need a website to inform people of where to go to get food, drop off food, or volunteer
- There are gaps in services, gaps in community-wide awareness
- Could do more but need to know where gaps are
- It is working well, but would like to reach more families.
- So far so good, but need to expand hours of operation
- We need more family participation
- Existence of food pantry is not widely known
- Working well. Continue with open communication with food service director and staff
- We will need support to get food to fill backpack need
- We need to increase minimum wage to reduce food insecurity in working families
- I would like to find ways to help people to break the cycle of generational poverty
- Need evening access to help / pantries
- We need more protein, milk, fresh veg and less mac'n'cheese
- To serve all, pantries need evening and weekend hours
- Community interest in assessing the needs of the elderly and ill who are food challenged and providing support. Being present to...
- It would be helpful if the food pantry could put out periodic info of increases in needy families and/or the commodities currently needed. We 'shout in the dark' and hope it helps
- Our neighbors at the Scarborough Food Pantry are excited about fresh produce
- Hunger is too often a regional problem being 'solved' locally, town by town