

linking resources with need.
Advocacy
Community Mobilizing
Outreach





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Letter from the Executive Director A Message From Debra A. Susie, Ph.D

Dear Friends of Impact,

Over the last two years, Florida Impact has further refined its focus on leveraging more public funds into Florida to address hunger and poverty. Hundreds of millions in federal dollars intended for Florida's low-income residents never cross the state line--taking up permanent residence in the nation's Capitol or used for other purposes. Impact has worked at the local, state, and federal levels to direct more of those resources into our communities and to those for whom they were intended.

The passage of the Willie Ann Glenn Act—in just its first year of implementation—generated an additional \$1 million in federal funds to feed children in Florida who lose their free and reduced-price school meals when the summer comes. Underwritten by a \$50,000 federal grant, Impact leveraged an additional \$119,000 in federal summer child nutrition dollars into six rural counties over 35 days of summer. With that infusion of funds, nearly twice as many children were fed as in the previous summer. And Impact's statewide, bilingual Food Stamp Help-line received over 68,000 callers during its six years of operation, contributing to Florida's ranking among the top four states where household food security has gone up!

French economist Jean-Baptiste Say spoke of a special economic actor, who "shifts economic resources out of an area of lower and into an area of higher productivity and greater yield." In its own way, Florida Impact has played such a role in our state. I am pleased to present to you these and other accomplishments of Florida Impact, as it enters its 29th year of operations.

Sincerely,



Debra A. Susie, Ph.D.



Achievements

The Florida Food Stamp Help-line

The State of Florida has come to rely almost exclusively on ACCESS, its on-line food stamp application; so on September 30, 2006, Florida Impact closed its statewide, bilingual Food Stamp Helpline, which it had operated for six years under contract with the Florida Department of Children and Families. The Help-line and its public/private partnership served as a national outreach model for anti-hunger and food stamp programs in other states. Over the whole of the project, the Help-line served nearly 68,000 people (including over 8,000 hurricane survivors in one month), who called for food stamp eligibility prescreening and to learn about their projected monthly benefit through automated software developed by Florida Impact. Over its last two years of operation, Impact's software program was refined further to convert the prescreening data into a printed Request for Assistance form, which was mailed to the caller to start the application process.

Helpline callers were also referred to our web-based Florida Food Resource Directory, a searchable database listing approximately 1500 local emergency food providers. Each entry provides information about the type of service offered, eligibility criteria, location, hours of operation, and contact people and

numbers. Every entry is updated annually, and information about the Directory and the Helpline is provided to local emergency food providers for use with clients.

Over the course of the project, 130,000 flyers in English, Spanish, and Creole, targeted to hard-to-reach populations, were distributed to advertise the Help-line number. And in that same six-year period, Florida saw a 37 percent increase in food stamp participation and was among the top four states in which household food insecurity had actually declined.



“OVER THE WHOLE OF THE PROJECT, THE HELP-LINE SERVED NEARLY 68,000 PEOPLE (INCLUDING OVER 8,000 HURRICANE SURVIVORS IN ONE MONTH)”

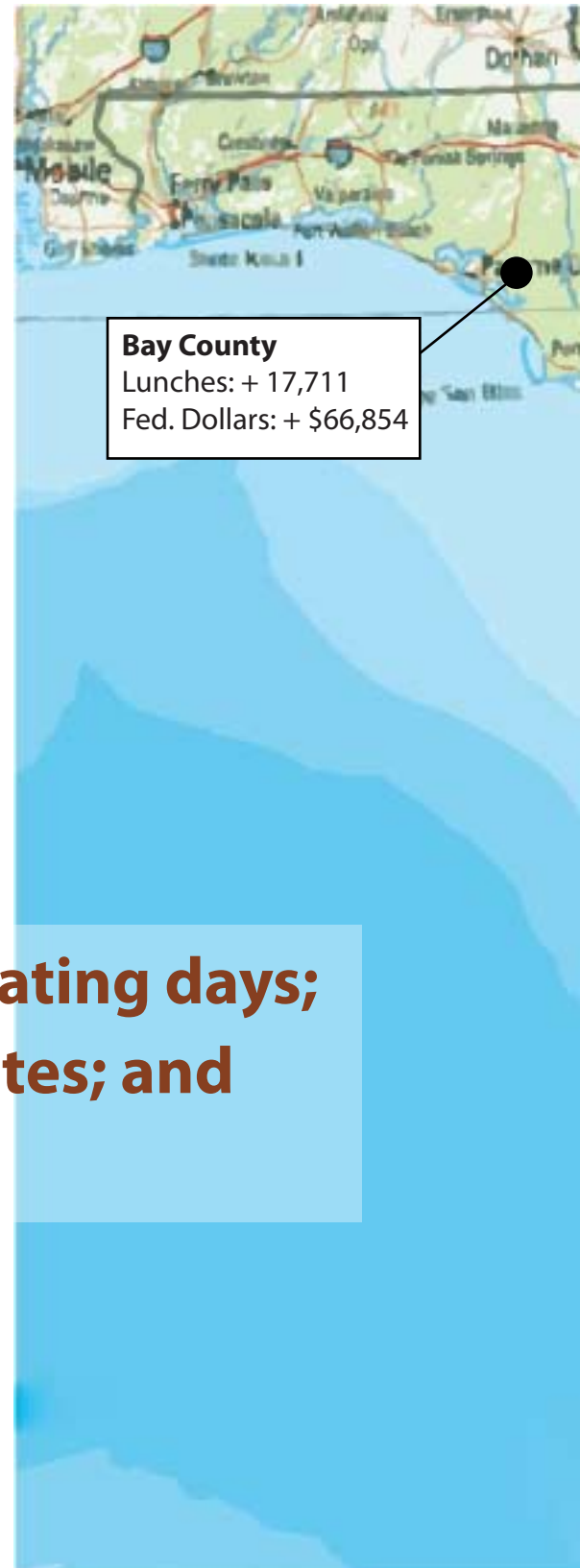
The Willie Ann Glenn Act (2005)

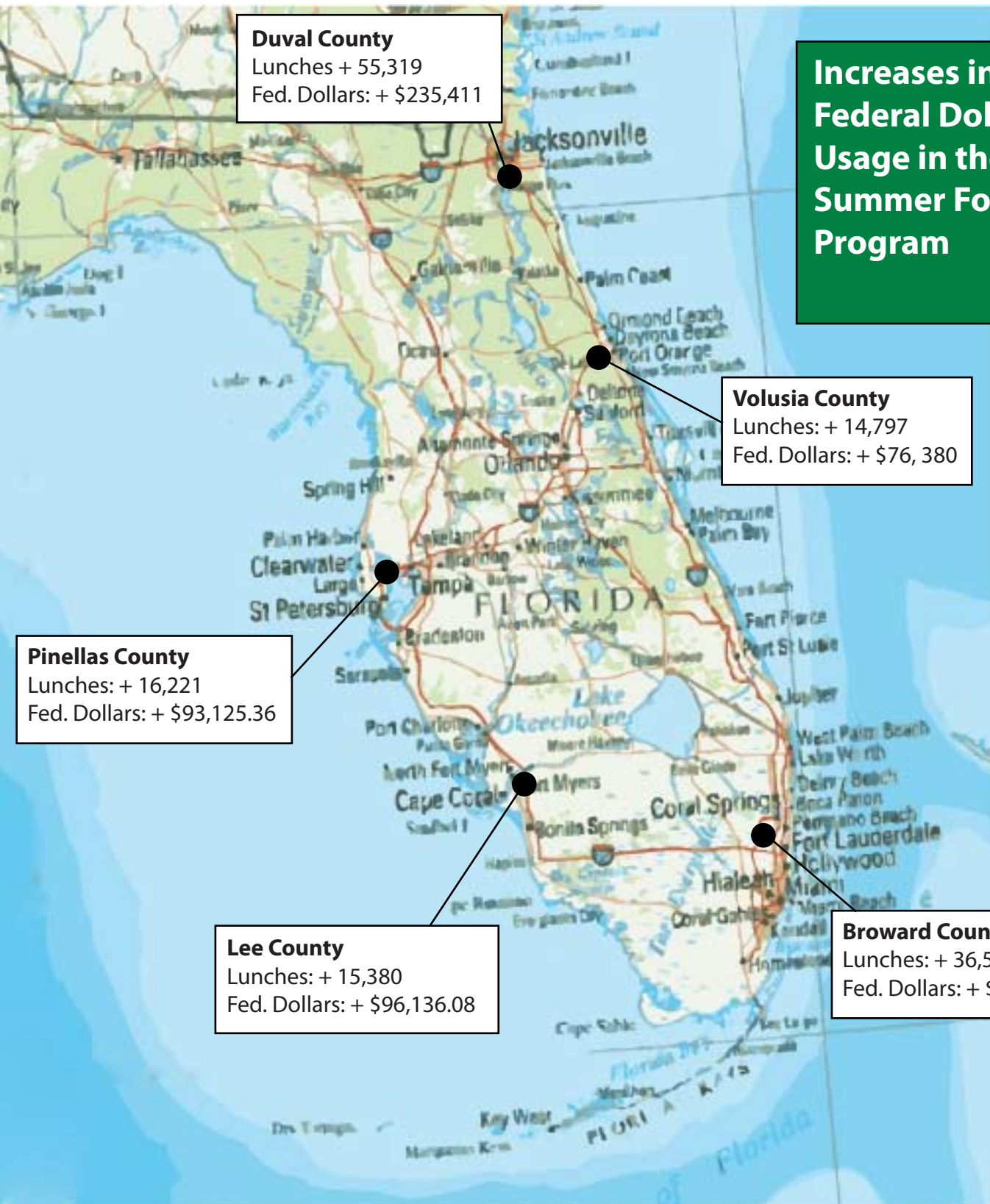
When school lets out, children from low-income families lose access to their free and reduced-price school meals. The federal Summer Food Service Program was designed to address this nutritional gap, but the Program had been on the decline in Florida since 2000—with a cumulative drop of 38 percent in the average daily attendance.

Prior to the Willie Ann Glenn Act, not all children had access to federal summer nutrition programs in our state; and where sites did operate, many were not open all of summer. Impact and its partners—including the Florida Association of Jewish Federations, the Florida Academy of Family Physicians, the Florida Catholic Conference, United Way of Florida, and several progressive Protestant denominations within the Impact network—worked to pass a state law to ensure summer food sites near all elementary schools in low-income neighborhoods. The WAG Act not only slowed the drop in attendance, it returned the program's numbers to the plus range with small increases in its first year of implementation (2006):

14% increase in average operating days;
8.5% increase in number of sites; and
6% increase in federal dollars

Over \$1 million in additional federal dollars for summer child nutrition was brought into the state in 2006, and for the first time in Florida's history, summer food sites were open in all 67 counties!





Increases in Federal Dollar Usage in the Summer Food Program

Total State-wide Federal Dollar Increase:
\$1,133,496.77.00

Establishing Summer Nutrition Sites for Children in Rural Communities.

Florida Impact was awarded a \$50,000 Community Food and Nutrition Program grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services in 2005. With this funding, Impact assisted community leaders in six rural counties with implementation of the WAG Act. All six counties ran summer food sites for the full length of summer where children had previously had little or no access to this nutritional resource.

- The six counties enjoyed a combined increase of federal summer nutrition funds that was nearly three times what they received the previous summer; and nearly twice as many children were served.
- Over \$119,000 in additional federal funds were infused into these six rural counties over the summer months to feed children.

Targeted Counties for Summer Food Outreach (Summer 2006)

	Lunches	# of Sites	Days Operating
CALHOUN	2,657	2	35
CLAY	24,442	16	44
COLUMBIA	9,616	14	34
HOLMES	3,109	4	19
LIBERTY	5,564	10	33
WAKULLA	1,380	2	41
Totals	46,768	48	34.3 (avg.)

Web-based Service for Advocates at www.flimpact.org

Florida Impact features an innovative, on-line advocacy tool in partnership with Democracy in America. Citizen activists concerned about public policies and budget priorities relative to hunger and poverty can now communicate their concerns to policymakers by email. Each time an alert is posted, Impact network participants receive an email blast advising them of another opportunity on the Impact website to “Let Your Voice be Heard.” Background information is provided, and prepared messages are ready to be forwarded directly to legislators and congressional representatives from your local district.

Comprehensive On-line Directory for Florida’s Low-income Families

Florida Impact also now provides “Resources for Families”—an on-line, comprehensive, one-stop information and referral service for all federal programs to assist low-income Floridians. Four key links—Healthcare, Nutrition, Housing and Utilities, and Income Assistance—take users directly to program links for food stamps, Earned Income Tax Credit, summer food, Low-Income Home Energy Assistance, phone service discounts, and Kidcare programs, to name a few. Some provide electronic applications. This resource is also designed for use by emergency service providers, including clergy, who can more readily educate clients and refer those in need to multiple sources of help at one site.





The Florida Campaign to End Childhood Hunger

Nearly one in ten Florida households struggles with hunger or food insecurity. These families comprise approximately 2 million Florida residents, including an estimated 650,000 children. In a state with enormous wealth and abundant agricultural resources, no child living in Florida need be hungry. We believe that together we can end childhood hunger.

We Know the Solutions

Families often stave off hunger by going to food pantries, soup kitchens, and other emergency food providers. A better, more sustained and more complete response is to get more children and adults enrolled in federally funded nutrition programs. For every meal provided by the emergency food programs, the federal nutrition programs--such as food stamps and school meals--provide 20 meals.

The Road Ahead

Florida Impact is committed to this effective response to widespread hunger and food insecurity by working to expand the use of existing federal food and nutrition programs – school lunch and breakfast, the summer and after-school food programs, food stamps, the Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (widely known as “WIC”), and the Child and Adult Care Food Program which pays for food for children in Head Start, child care centers and family child care. The federal government, operating through state and local agencies, schools and all types of non-profits, makes funds available to feed people in all these circumstances.

The Partnership

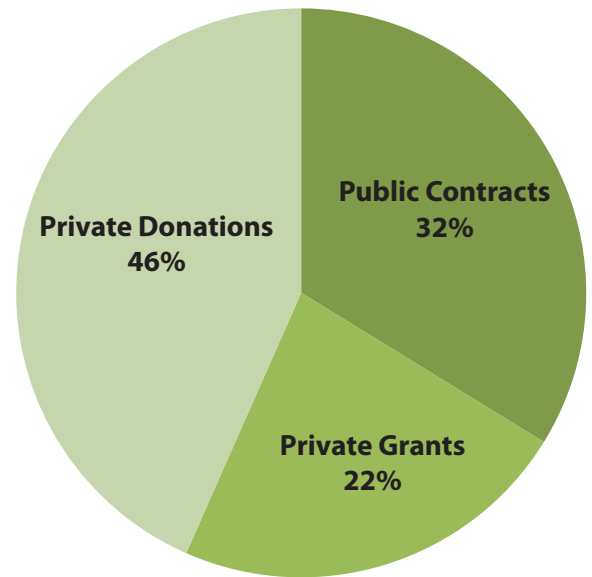
Florida Impact has entered a formal partnership with Share

Our Strength (SOS) and the Food Research and Action Center (both in Washington) to develop a blueprint for increasing access to these programs and participation in the Earned Income Tax Credit as a way to end hunger among Florida’s children. For the first two years of this multi-year endeavor, the UPS Foundation has awarded Impact a grant through SOS to develop a strategic plan modeled after a pilot conducted by DC Hunger Solutions to end childhood hunger in the nation’s capital (<http://www.askmehowdc.org/plan>). This grant will help build Impact’s capacity and the network of leaders needed to implement effective strategies for ending childhood hunger across our state.

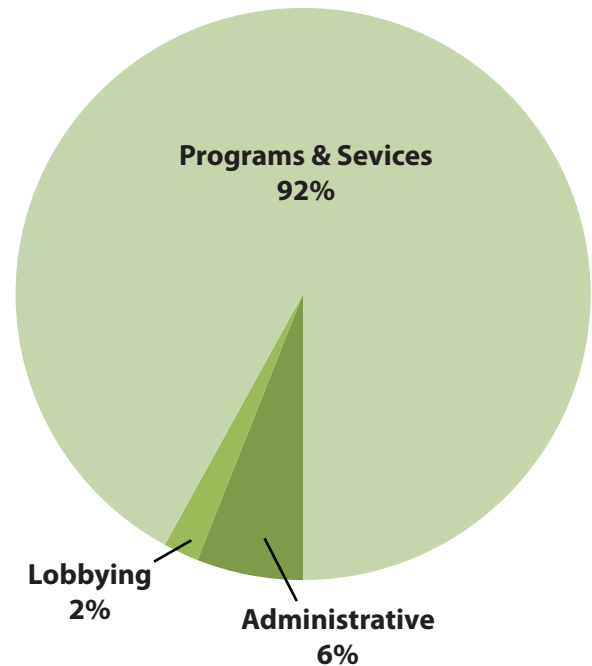
Financials

Audited Financials 05 – 06

Cash at Beginning of FY	\$51,899	\$7,095
Revenues:	2005	2006
Public Contracts & Grants	\$64,460	\$57,128
Private Grants	\$15,991	\$66,182
Private Donations	\$87,822	\$88,329
Total Revenue	\$168,273	\$211,639



Expenses:	2005	2006
Salaries, Wages & Related Benefits	\$104,407	\$106,681
Matching Funds	\$32,857	\$0
Office & Computer	\$15,903	\$16,360
Rent & Utilities	\$25,093	\$20,735
Contract Services	\$12,518	\$18,386
Miscellaneous Cost	\$11,209	\$4,892
Total Expenses	\$201,987	\$167,054



Florida Impact Wishes to Thank and Acknowledge these Supporters

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Church Women United - Lakeland
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Florida Catholic Conference
Food Research and Action Center
Greater Miami Jewish Federation
Greater Palm River Point
Gulf Breeze United Methodist Church
Gulf Central - United Methodist Women
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St. Luke's United Methodist Church
St. Paul United Methodist Church, Tallahassee
St. Petersburg Dist. United Methodist Women
St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Tallahassee
Stewart Memorial AME Church, Perry
Suncoast Combined Federal Campaign
Tall. Monthly Meeting Of Religious Society of Friends
Taste of the NFL
Temple Israel
The Farver Foundation
Trinity United Methodist Church, Tallahassee
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
United Church in Tallahassee
United Methodist Cooperative Ministries
United Methodist Women - Florida Conference
United Methodist Women - Gulf Central
United Way of Lee County
UPS Foundation
Women's Guild Penney Memorial Church



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