



FLORIDA IMPACT

# 2023

## Year in Review

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# Our Mission



## Mission

**Florida Impact to End Hunger is dedicated to advancing health equity by ending hunger for all Floridians. We mobilize communities to maximize access to federal, state, and local food and nutrition programs with a focus on Florida’s most vulnerable populations.**





# Our Focus



## FLORIDA ADVOCACY DAY

In collaboration with the Florida United Methodist Church and the African Methodist Episcopal Church, 11th District, FL Impact conducts comprehensive Florida Advocacy Days training events throughout the year. These events are designed to equip community advocates with the skills and knowledge needed to effectively engage with the state legislature. By fostering a deeper understanding of legislative processes and advocacy strategies, we empower individuals to become impactful voices for their communities. For further details about our training programs and upcoming events, please visit our website at [www.flumc.org/floridaadvocacyday](http://www.flumc.org/floridaadvocacyday).

## SUMMER BREAKSPOT

To sustain ongoing support and outreach efforts for the Summer Breakspot initiative, we are dedicated to ensuring that children across multiple counties in the state receive free, nutritious meals during the school break. This program plays a crucial role in addressing food insecurity, helping to maintain the health and well-being of our young community members when school is not in session. By continuing to support Summer Breakspot, we can make a significant impact on the lives of countless children, ensuring they have access to the nourishment they need. For more detailed information on the Summer Breakspot program and its positive effects, please visit [www.summerbreakspot.org](http://www.summerbreakspot.org).



## HEALTHY RETAIL STORES

In partnership with the City of Miami Gardens and supported by the Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), we have made significant strides in enhancing access to fresh, healthy foods for residents of Miami Gardens and the surrounding communities. Our efforts are focused on creating sustainable, long-term solutions to food insecurity, ensuring that nutritious options are readily available to all community members. Through this initiative, we aim to improve public health outcomes and foster a healthier, more vibrant community.



## FARM TO SCHOOL

With support from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm to School grant and a wealth of outstanding community partners, we have been awarded a second USDA Farm to School grant for the Leon County Schools program at Fort Braden Elementary School in Tallahassee. This initiative focuses on connecting local farmers with school cafeterias to combat rising obesity rates and promote healthier eating habits among students. By enhancing the quality of school meals, we aim to benefit children, schools, and the local farming community. To learn more about this impactful program, please visit [www.farmtolcs.org](http://www.farmtolcs.org).



## FOOD RECOVERY

As a founding partner of the Statewide Food Recovery Team, we continue to collaborate closely with Means Data Database, UF/IFAS, and other valued community partners. Our joint efforts focus on identifying surplus edible food within various community settings, including schools, hospitals, and restaurants. By redistributing this food, which would otherwise be wasted, we ensure it reaches individuals and families in need, significantly contributing to food security within our communities. This ongoing collaboration underscores our commitment to reducing food waste and supporting those facing food insecurity.



## NUTRITION & AGRICULTURE CLUB



The Nutrition & Agriculture Club offers a comprehensive, hands-on learning experience aimed at educating and engaging students in the essentials of nutrition and agriculture. This initiative includes interactive activities, garden projects, and educational workshops designed to promote healthy eating habits and enhance food literacy. By participating in these activities, students gain a deeper understanding of the origins of their food and the basics of agricultural practices. The club's primary goal is to foster a well-rounded appreciation for nutrition and agriculture, ultimately encouraging students to adopt healthier lifestyles.





# Advocacy & Outreach



## A YEAR OF IMPACT AND COLLABORATION

For the second consecutive year, with the generous support of a grant from MAZON: The Jewish Response to Hunger, our Statewide Advocacy & Outreach Manager has been able to continue delivering exceptional work. This position has allowed us to actively engage in both statewide and national workgroups, fostering collaboration with a diverse range of organizations, churches, schools, and community groups. Our efforts focus on community engagement, improving food access, and advocating for those in need. We have maintained a significant presence in Tallahassee and Washington, DC, participating in critical hunger meetings, conferences, and advocacy trainings. These activities have enabled us to strengthen our advocacy efforts and amplify our impact on food security issues.

## HEALTHY CHECK OUT ORDINANCE PASSES

In collaboration with Florida Healthy Retail and key partners such as the City of Miami Gardens, we successfully championed the Miami Gardens Healthy Checkout Policy Ordinance. This groundbreaking policy addresses the prevalent issue of limited nutritious options at checkout lines by shifting in-store marketing towards healthier choices. The ordinance holds large retailers accountable for promoting better nutritional options, aiming to transform the shopping environment while preserving consumer freedom. Our advocacy campaign strives to foster a healthier community by encouraging retailers to prioritize the well-being of their customers through responsible marketing practices.

## FRESH ACCESS FROM FLORIDA CAMPAIGN

In collaboration with Voices for Healthy Kids, Feeding Florida, Hebni, Florida Policy Institute, and Urban Health Partnerships, Florida Impact has actively contributed to the expansion of the Fresh Access Bucks program through a unified initiative named "Florida for Fresh Access." This campaign underscores our collective commitment to increasing access to fresh, nutritious food for communities across the state. By leveraging the strengths and resources of our partner organizations, we have effectively broadened the reach and impact of the Fresh Access Bucks program, ensuring more families benefit from affordable, healthy food options. Through this joint effort, we continue to advocate for and implement sustainable solutions that address food insecurity and promote healthier lifestyles for all Floridians.

A promotional graphic for the Fresh Access Bucks program. It features the logo for 'Fresh Access Bucks' and 'Feeding Florida'. The main text reads: 'SHOP WITH SNAP/EBT OR P-EBT GET FREE FRESH FRUITS &amp; VEGETABLES AT PARTICIPATING OUTLETS'. To the right, it says 'BUY \$1 WITH SNAP OR P-EBT GET \$1 IN FRESH ACCESS BUCKS'. Below this, it specifies 'Up to \$40 per day' for Farmers Markets, Farm Stands, CSAs, &amp; Mobile Markets, and 'Up to \$10 per visit' for Community Grocery Stores. At the bottom, it says 'FIND AN OUTLET NEAR YOU WITH THE QR CODE OR WWW.FRESHACCESSBUCKS.COM' and includes a QR code and an illustration of various fresh fruits and vegetables.





## GEMS

With generous support from Sodexo Stop Hunger we initiated GEMS. GEMS focuses on empowering youth from low-income communities in Orange County by providing essential tools and resources to overcome hunger-related challenges, access to opportunities, and societal barriers. Through our programs, youth engage in comprehensive learning experiences encompassing community asset building, advocacy training, food systems and food justice, career development, nutrition education, and other pertinent topics. We aim to foster holistic development and equip young individuals with the knowledge and skills necessary for personal growth and community impact.

## SNAP FEEDS US

In collaboration with FRAC, Florida Impact, the Central Florida Alliance to End Hunger, and Urban Health Partnerships have joined forces to enhance awareness of the impactful benefits of SNAP across our communities through the SNAP Feeds Our Community Campaign. This initiative aims to underscore the vital role SNAP plays in supporting individuals statewide. For further details, please visit [SNAPFeeds.US](https://SNAPFeeds.US).



## FAMILY DINNER TABLE

With generous funding support from the Hillsborough County Children's Board, FL Impact successfully launched the Family Dinner Table Project in collaboration with community members, leaders, and stakeholders across the Hillsborough County area. This initiative brought together diverse voices to discuss and address local concerns, focusing on improving community access to vital resources and promoting affordable, nutritious food options. The Family Dinner Table sessions facilitated meaningful dialogue aimed at enhancing community well-being through sustainable, inclusive solutions.





## RETURNING CITIZENS BILL

Our strategic partnerships with esteemed organizations such as Bread for the World and Operation New Hope have yielded significant outcomes, notably the establishment of the Returning Citizens Bill program, encapsulated in HB 6079/SB 762. This pioneering initiative seeks to overturn state bans on SNAP and TANF benefits for individuals with previous drug trafficking convictions, thereby supporting their successful reintegration into society and mitigating the likelihood of recidivism. Beyond its rehabilitative impact on criminal justice, this proposed legislation promises substantial fiscal advantages by reducing reincarceration rates and achieving cost savings for taxpayers.



## SERVING WITH LOVE

With generous support from the Popeyes Foundation Serving with Love initiative, FL Impact successfully organized and executed multiple pop-up food distribution events throughout the Orlando community. These initiatives were specifically designed to alleviate food insecurity among youth and children, ensuring access to nutritious meals during critical times. This partnership enabled us to reach a broader audience and make a significant impact in addressing local hunger challenges among vulnerable populations.



## IMPACT DAYS

Thanks to the generous support of the DeBartolo Family Foundation, Florida Impact, and several Tampa partners were able to successfully organize and host multiple Pop Up Impact Day Food Distribution events across various locations in Tampa. These events addressed the pressing issue of food insecurity within the community, ensuring that families and individuals had access to nutritious food options. In addition to food, attendees were provided with various essential community resources. Each event not only met immediate nutritional needs but also fostered a sense of community and support, reinforcing the importance of coming together to uplift and assist one another.





# FLORIDA IMPACT

Thank You



## OUR FUNDERS

- MAZON A Jewish Response to Hunger
- American Heart Association
- Center for Science in the Public Interest
- Children's Board of Hillsborough
- Children's Home Society of Florida
- City of Miami Gardens
- David Kimmel Foundation
- DeBartolo Family Foundation Inc
- Enterprise Holdings Foundation
- Florida Conference United Methodist
- FRAC - Food Research & Action
- Project Bread
- FL-GA District of Lutheran Church of Missouri Synod
- Popeyes Foundation
- USDA Farm to School
- United Women in Faith- Florida
- Wawa Foundation
- Women's Missionary Society
- 11th Episcopal District of AME Church
- Sodexo Stop Hunger Foundation
- Southeastern Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

Gratitude extends to our board of directors, partners, and contributors of Florida Impact. We are thankful for your invaluable support throughout 2023. Because of you, we persist in our mission to alleviate food insecurity. Anticipating further positive changes in the lives of Floridians in 2024 and beyond, we remain committed to making a lasting difference.

## CONTACT US



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