

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Feeding the Gulf Coast Boosts Mobile Pantry Distributions in Response to Increased Need due to COVID-19

Milton, FL -- April 7, 2020

Feeding the Gulf Coast is no stranger to disaster relief; however, the organization has discovered new challenges when responding to the increased need due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The food bank is experiencing an increased need during this time. However, logistically the food bank has been challenged with the need to figure out new ways to carry out day-to-day operations.

Feeding the Gulf Coast has operated the Mobile Pantry Distribution Program for years, but with concerns over limiting physical contact, these one-day food distribution events have become solely a drive-thru model. Because of this demand, the food bank has had to re-evaluate how these distributions run and have upped safety practices as well. Last week alone, the organization distributed over 100,000 pounds of food at these distributions. The staff continues to work to schedule more distributions like these over the coming weeks, with multiple already scheduled. Distributions this week include:

- Crosspoint United Methodist Church - April 10 @ 10:00AM
 - 214 Partin Drive South, Niceville, FL 32578
- My Inspiration for Gods News Outreach Ministry Inc. - April 10 @ 7:00AM
 - 3405 North S Street, Pensacola, FL 32505
- A Hand Up - April 11 @ 10:00AM
 - 922 East 9th Court, Panama City, FL 32401

As Feeding the Gulf Coast continues to serve seven counties in Northwest Florida, the need for additional agencies in some of these counties is rising. The food bank has a need for community partners to host Mobile Pantries in Washington, Holmes, and Okaloosa Counties. If you know of a community organization which may be able to assist, please visit <https://www.feedingthegulfcoast.org/get-involved/become-an-agency-partner>.

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About Feeding the Gulf Coast:

Feeding the Gulf Coast, formerly Bay Area Food Bank, serves a 24-county area spanning the Florida panhandle, south Alabama, and south Mississippi. In 2018, the food bank distributed over 22 million meals to over 400 church pantries, soup kitchens and other nonprofit organizations throughout its service area. The food bank also operates multiple hunger-relief and nutrition programs, including Summer Meals, Afterschool Meal, Backpack, Disaster Relief, Mobile Pantry and Produce Drop Distributions, and Nutrition Education. Feeding the Gulf Coast is a United Way member agency and a member of Feeding America. For more information, visit www.feedingthegulfcoast.org.

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